

# Saganashkee Slough Population Survey



Located in Palos Hills along 107<sup>th</sup> Street west of Willow Springs Rd. (104<sup>th</sup> Ave.). This large 377-acre lake is only 6.3 feet deep at the west end. Large crappie and Channel Catfish can be found here along with Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, sunfish, Yellow Bass, bullheads, Freshwater Drum, and Common Carp. A barrier free fishing walls is located at the east parking lot on Willow Springs Road and a boat ramp is located in the west parking lot on 107<sup>th</sup> Street. For acceptable watercraft and general boating regulations see the District's Fishing Guide. Boating is subject to seasonal closings to protect migratory waterfowl. Designated ice fishing lake.

## 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.

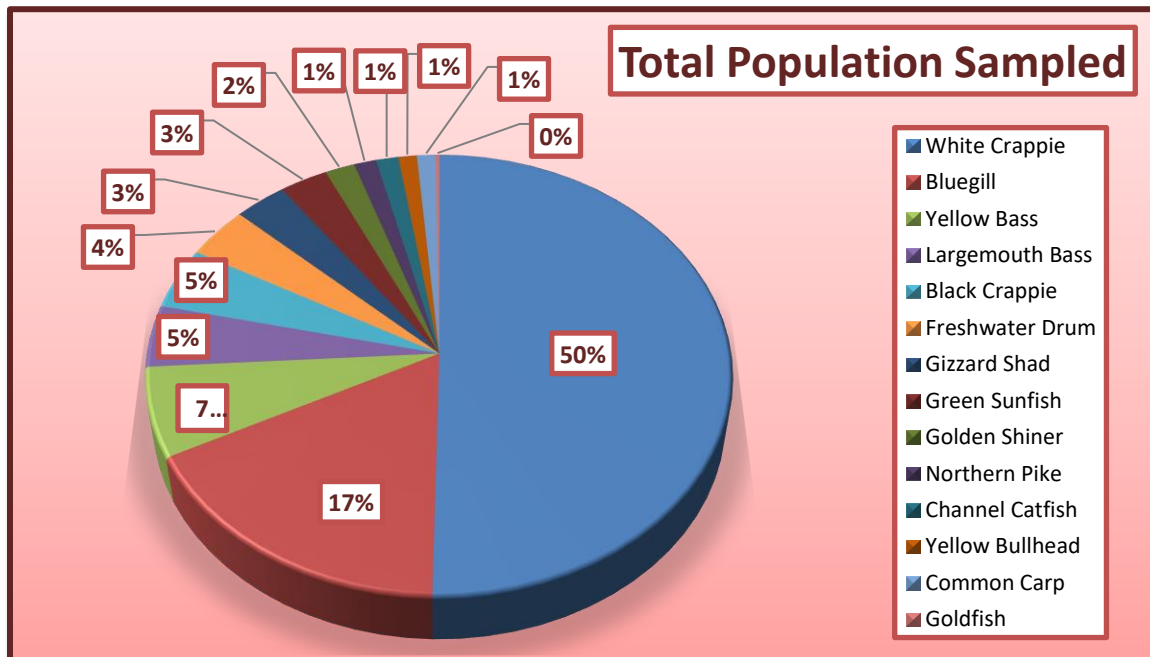
# Saganashkee Slough Population Survey



**Date of survey: June 26 – 28, 2021**  
**Electro-fishing time: 60 minutes**  
**6 Fyke nets fished: 48 hours**  
**0 feet gill nets fished: 0 hours**

## Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
White Crappie	223	50.34%
Bluegill	76	17.16%
Yellow Bass	29	6.55%
Largemouth Bass	20	4.51%
Black Crappie	20	4.51%
Freshwater Drum	17	3.84%
Gizzard Shad	14	3.16%
Green Sunfish	13	2.93%
Golden Shiner	8	1.81%
Northern Pike	6	1.35%
Channel Catfish	6	1.35%
Yellow Bullhead	5	1.13%
Common Carp	5	1.13%
Goldfish	1	0.23%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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## White Crappie

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	3.14%	0.009	0+
3.0	10	4.48%	0.02	0+
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	95	42.60%	0.06	1+
5.5	36	16.14%	0.07	1+
6.0	30	13.45%	0.09	1+
6.5	41	18.39%	0.12	1+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	2	0.90%	0.54	3+
11.0	1	0.45%	0.67	3+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	0.45%	0.86	5+
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Bluegill

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	1	1.32%	0.03	0+
3.5	10	13.16%	0.04	1+
4.0	6	7.89%	0.05	1+
4.5	4	5.26%	0.08	1+
5.0	29	38.16%	0.10	1-2+
5.5	19	25.00%	0.14	2+
6.0	7	9.21%	0.16	3+
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Yellow Bass

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.5	7	24.14%	0.05	1+
5.0	7	24.14%	0.07	1+
5.5	1	3.45%	0.10	2+
6.0	10	34.48%	0.13	2+
6.5	4	13.79%	0.15	2+
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>99.99%</b>		

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## Largemouth Bass

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	3	15.00%	0.02	0+
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	1	5.0%	0.06	1+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	4	20.00%	0.14	1+
7.0	1	5.00%	0.18	1+
7.5	1	5.00%	0.21	2+
8.0	3	15.00%	0.26	2+
8.5	1	5.00%	0.28	2+
-	-	-	-	-
10.0	1	5.00%	0.40	2+
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	2	10.00%	0.65	3+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	5.00%	0.97	3+
-	-	-	-	-
14.0	1	5.00%	1.38	4+
-	-	-	-	-
19.0	1	5.00%	4.17	7+
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Black Crappie

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.0	2	10.00%	0.04	1+
4.5	5	25.00%	0.05	1+
5.0	9	45.00%	0.07	1+
5.5	2	10.00%	0.08	1+
6.0	1	5.00%	0.12	1+
-	-	-	-	-
8.5	1	5.00%	0.32	3+
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

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## Freshwater Drum

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
6.0	2	11.76%	0.09	1+
6.5	10	58.82%	0.12	1+
7.0	1	5.88%	0.17	1+
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	1	5.88%	0.55	2+
-	-	-	-	-
19.5	2	11.76%	3.37	6+
-	-	-	-	-
21.0	1	5.88%	4.04	7+
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>99.98%</b>		

## Green Sunfish

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	3	213.08%	0.03	1+
3.5	7	53.85%	0.05	1+
4.0	1	7.69%	0.06	2+
4.5	2	15.38%	0.06	2+
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Northern Pike

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
17.0	1	16.67%	0.91	2+
-	-	-	-	-
18.0	1	16.67%	1.13	2+
-	-	-	-	-
19.0	3	50.00%	1.41	2-3+
19.5	1	16.67%	1.54	3+
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

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## Channel Catfish

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
13.5	2	33.33%	0.66	NA
-	-	-	-	-
14.5	1	16.67%	0.95	NA
15.0	1	16.67%	0.97	NA
-	-	-	-	-
18.0	1	16.67%	1.82	NA
-	-	-	-	-
21.0	1	16.67%	2.96	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

## Yellow Bullhead

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	1	20.00%	0.01	NA
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	3	60.00%	0.38	NA
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	1	20.00%	0.76	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Common Carp

1/2 Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
16.0	1	20.00%	1.77	4+
16.5	2	40.00%	1.99	4+
-	-	-	-	-
17.5	2	20.00%	2.03	5+
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

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## 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.

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

The IDNR suspended the production, rearing and stocking of Northern Pike in 2017, Northern stocking resumed in 2020 and were stocked in the 7 to 9-inch range. Muskellunge range from 10 to 14-inches and are stocked in the Main Pool of Busse Reservoir intermittently.

Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Channel Catfish	-	2,333	-	-	-
Northern Pike	-	704	650	657	650