

Schiller Pond Population Survey



Located in the town of Schiller Park on Irving Park Rd. just west of Cumberland Ave. This small 6-acre pond has a maximum depth of 6.3 feet. In addition to Largemouth Bass and Bluegill, Schiller Pond is part of the IDNR's Urban Fisheries Program and gets stocked with Channel Catfish and hybrid sunfish every year. Seven bump-outs are located around the pond to improve access to deeper 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 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.

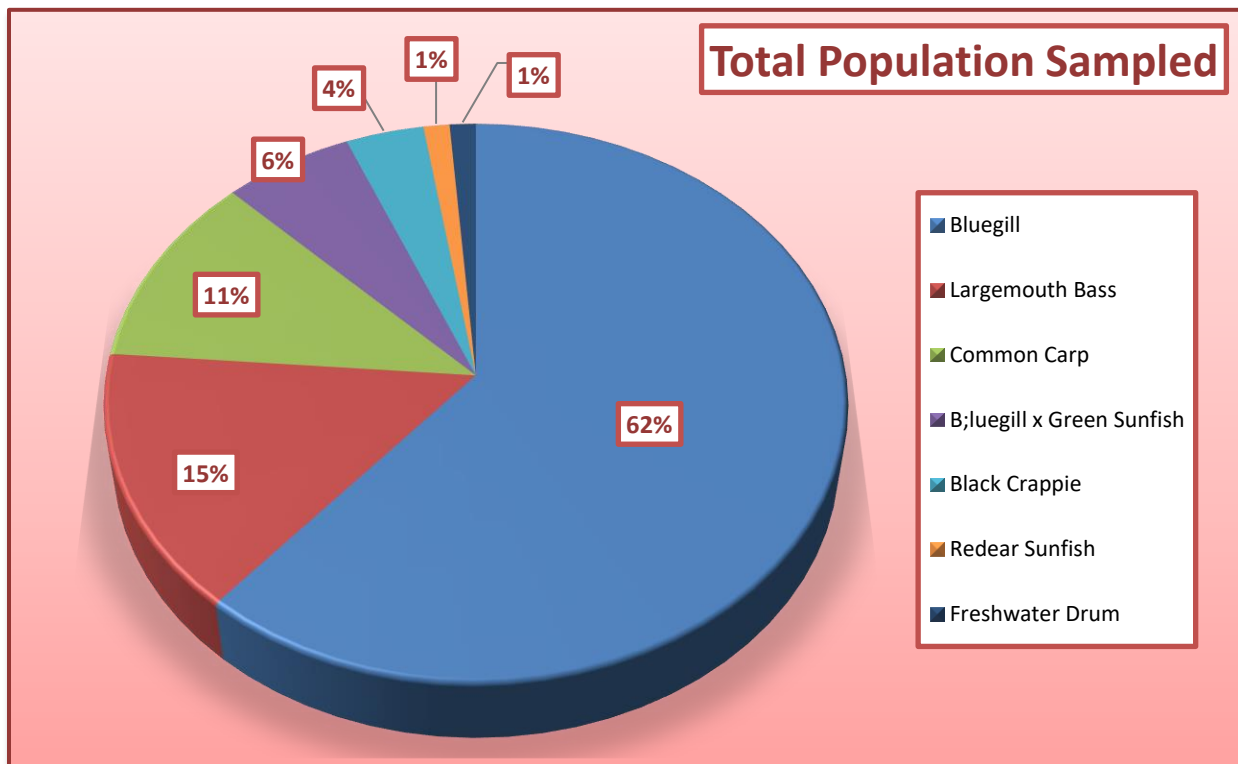
Schiller Pond Population Survey



Date of survey: June 15, 2023
Electro-fishing time: 20 minutes
0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
0 feet of gill net fished: hours

Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	49	61.25%
Largemouth Bass	12	15.00%
Common Carp	9	11.25%
Bluegill x Green Sunfish Hybrid	5	6.25%
Black Crappie	3	3.75%
Redear Sunfish	1	1.25%
Freshwater Drum	1	1.25%
Total	80	100.00%



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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.0	1	2.04%	0.002	0+
1.5	2	4.08%	0.003	0+
2.0	4	8.16%	0.004	0+
2.5	7	14.29%	0.006	1+
3.0	7	14.29%	0.02	1+
3.5	2	4.08%	0.03	2+
4.0	8	16.33%	0.04	2+
4.5	5	10.20%	0.06	2+
5.0	13	26.53%	0.09	2 - 3+
Totals	49	100.00%		

Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.0	1	8.33%	0.002	0+
-	-	-	-	-
4.0	1	8.33%	0.02	0+
4.5	1	8.33%	00.4	0+
-	-	-	-	-
5.5	1	8.33%	0.07	0+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	1	8.33%	0.11	1+
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	1	8.33%	0.32	2+
9.5	1	8.33%	0.42	2+
10.0	1	8.33%	0.42	2+
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	3	25.00%	0.57	2 - 3+
-	-	-	-	-
18.0	1	8.33%	3.03	5+
Totals	12	99.97%		

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Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
18.0	1	11.11%	2.81	5+
-	-	-	-	-
19.0	5	55.56%	3.24	5+
19.5	1	11.11%	3.28	6+
-	-	-	-	-
20.5	1	11.11%	3.82	6+
-	-	-	-	-
25.5	1	11.11%	7.78	7+
Totals	9	100.00%		

Bluegill x Green Sunfish Hybrid

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.0	1	20.00%	0.05	2+
4.5	2	40.00%	0.07	2+
-	-	-	-	-
5.5	2	40.00%	0.12	2 - 3+
Totals	5	100.00%		

Black Crappie

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.0	2	66.67%	0.04	1+
-	-	-	-	-
6.0	1	33.33%	0.10	1+
Totals	3	100.00%		

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Other Species collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Redear Sunfish	1	7.0	0.26	3+
Freshwater Drum	1	10.5	0.35	2+

Stocking

The Forest Preserves of Cook County works closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to stock fish 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 ½ to ¾-inch.

Due to the abrupt closing of the hatchery that supplied the IDNR with catchable Channel Catfish and Hybrid Sunfish for the IDNR’s Urban Fishing Program, the IDNR was unable to stock Channel Catfish at Cermak Quarry, Flatfoot Lake and Schiller Pond. The IDNR was able to procure Bluegill x Redear Sunfish Hybrids for these lakes, but the exact number of fish is unavailable.

Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Channel Catfish	801	801	-	-	-
Hybrid Sunfish	2,445	2,445	Numbers Unavailable	2,445	2,445
Bluegill	-	-	-	8,425	13,937

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Fisheries Survey Overview

Schiller Pond is another Bass & Bluegill pond that is part of the IDNR's Urban Fishery Program. Bluegill and Largemouth Bass are the primary species found in Schiller Pond. The Bluegill ranged in size from 1.0-inch up to 5.0-inches and the Largemouth Bass ranged from 1.0-inch young-of-year bass up to a five year old 18.0-inch fish. This fish was the only fish over the 14-inch legal size limit.

As part of the State of Illinois' Urban Fishery Program, Schiller Pond gets annual stockings of hybrid sunfish and Channel Catfish. The sunfish are stocked in the 4 to 6-inch range and the Channel Catfish are stocked at around 6-inches. In the past, 2-pound average catfish were stocked but the dealer the state used closed in 2020. It is hoped that a new dealer will soon be identified who can supply these larger catfish.

Schiller Pond is overrun with Common Carp which is detrimental to the overall fish population. While only nine carp were collected, many more were observed. The Forest Preserves' Fisheries Section has plans to remove these carp in the hope of improving the overall health of Schiller Pond.