

Papoose Lake Population Survey



Located in Palos Park on McCarthy Rd. (123rd St) just west of LaGrange Rd. (U.S. 45). This 18-acre lake has a maximum depth of 9.3 feet. Species found in Papoose Lake include Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Yellow Bass, crappie, and bullheads. Two bump-outs were constructed off the parking lot allowing access to deeper water. 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 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.

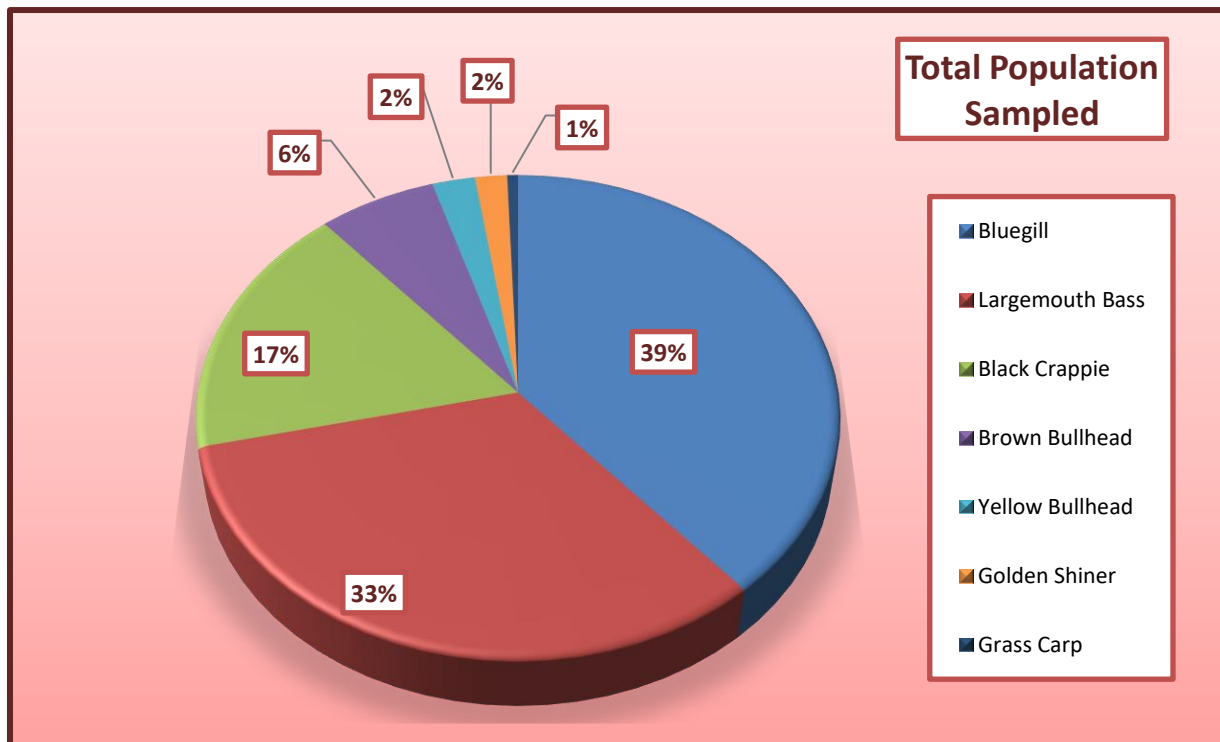
Papoose Lake Population Survey



Date of survey: August 22-23, 2022
Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes
0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
500 feet gill nets fished: 24 hours

Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	65	38.69%
Largemouth Bass	55	32.74%
Black Crappie	29	17.26%
Brown Bullhead	11	6.55%
Yellow Bullhead	4	2.38%
Golden Shiner	3	1.79%
Grass Carp	1	0.59%
Total	168	100.00%



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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.0	2	3.08%	0.002	0+
1.5	1	1.54%	0.002	0+
2.0	2	3.08%	0.006	0+
2.5	5	7.69%	0.02	0+
3.0	10	15.38%	0.03	0-1+
3.5	12	18.46%	0.04	1+
4.0	5	7.69%	0.06	1+
4.5	8	12.31%	0.06	2+
5.0	7	10.77%	0.09	2+
5.5	3	4.62%	0.14	3+
6.0	4	6.15%	0.15	3+
6.5	6	9.23%	0.19	3+
Totals	65	100.00%		

Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.0	3	5.45%	0.007	0+
2.5	2	3.64%	0.01	0+
3.0	3	5.45%	0.01	0+
3.5	2	3.64%	0.03	0+
4.0	2	3.64%	0.04	0+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	3	5.45%	0.14	1+
7.0	1	1.82%	0.20	1+
7.5	2	3.64%	0.22	1+
8.0	5	9.09%	0.26	1+
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	1	1.82%	0.33	1+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	4	7.27%	0.58	2+
11.0	3	5.45%	0.63	2+
11.5	2	3.64%	0.76	2+
12.0	11	20.00%	0.85	2-3+
12.5	6	10.91%	1.00	3-4+
13.0	1	1.82%	1.07	3+
13.5	2	3.64%	1.20	4+
14.0	1	1.82%	1.21	4+
14.5	1	1.82%	1.60	4+
Totals	55	100.02%		

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Black Crappie

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	1	3.45%	0.02	0+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	3	10.34%	0.04	0+
-	-	-	-	-
6.0	3	10.34%	0.11	1+
6.5	2	6.90%	0.16	1-2+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	7	24.14%	0.23	2+
8.0	5	17.24%	0.26	2-3+
8.5	4	13.79%	0.32	2-3+
9.0	3	10.34%	0.41	3+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	3.45%	0.99	4+
Totals	29	99.99%		

Brown Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
9.0	1	9.09%	0.37	NA
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	1	9.09%	0.57	NA
11.0	4	36.37%	0.66	NA
11.5	3	27.27%	0.77	NA
12.0	1	9.09%	1.14	NA
12.5	1	9.09%	0.90	NA
Totals	11	100.00%		

Yellow Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
8.0	1	25.00%	0.26	NA
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	2	50.00%	0.42	NA
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	25.00%	0.96	NA
Totals	4	100.00%		

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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 over fished. 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.

Species	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bluegill	-	-	30,000	-	-

Population Survey Overview

Like many of the Forest Preserves of Cook County’s lakes, Papoose is a great spot to bring the kids and/or grandkids out to introduce them to fishing. Papoose Lake has a healthy Largemouth Bass and Bluegill population to entertain both young and old alike.

Twenty of the sixty-five Bluegill collected in our survey were over 5-inches. On light tackle, a Bluegill that size would feel like a whopper to any 5-year old. With its open shoreline and bump-out off the parking lot, Papoose is also a great spot to try for Bluegill with a fly rod.

Largemouth Bass can be found all along the shore of Papoose and ranged in size from 2-inch young-of-year fish up to the legal size of 14-inches. While we did not collect many 14+ fish this year over twenty of the bass collected were in the 11 to 13-inch range promising more keeper bass in the near future.

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There is a small population of Black Crappie in Papoose with crappie reaching 12-inches in the fish collected in our survey. Larger crappie over 15-inches have been seen in the past so there is always a chance of finding a larger one. Crappie tend to take over smaller ponds if not kept in check by a good predator base resulting in many stunted fish.

If an angler really wants to have some fun, they should try fishing for bullhead at Papoose. This year's survey a good number of both Brown and Yellow Bullheads being collected. The third species of bullhead found in our area; the Black Bullheads has also been collected here in the past. Many of these bullhead came in between a quarter of a pound and a pound and would give any angler a run for their money.

The one Grass Carp collected is from a stocking back in the 1990's. This species was stocked as an experiment to help control the aquatic vegetation in Papoose Lake. Unfortunately, this experiment failed to produce that desired results and the stockings were discontinued.