



Birmingham Pond

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Birmingham Pond is located in Birmingham Park in Aurora. From Eola Road, head west on Indian Trail. Turn north (right) on Stonebridge Blvd. and turn left on Legacy Drive. Birmingham Park is located west of (left side) of Legacy Drive. The park is located on the far west end of Stonebridge Country Club.

DESCRIPTION – Birmingham Pond is a 3.2 acre dug retention pond. No bathymetric map is available for this pond. The pond is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park in a residential setting. Flow through from adjacent storm sewers help keep this shallow lake from serious winter kill. A buffer strip of vegetation is left un-mowed to help trap nutrients before they enter the pond. A playground and basketball courts are located at the adjacent park.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15-inch minimum limit on largemouth bass). An IDNR fish survey took place on September 23rd, 2020 as a follow-up to the 2014 survey. District staff have been informed to monitor their shallower ponds after harsh winters.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Fox Valley Park District reported a significant winterkill during the winter of 2013-14. A follow up survey in May of 2014 showed a fair number of fish made it through. Largemouth bass and bluegill abundance were within the numbers of a healthy pond in 2014 and they look better in 2020. Excellent access makes Birmingham Pond a family friendly fishing location.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2020 electrofishing survey, 72 Largemouth Bass were caught in fifteen minutes of shocking (288 fish per hour compared to 112 in 2014). We consider anything over 60 fish per hour to be a healthy abundance measure. The average bass was 11.5 inches long and the catch ranged in length from 7.2 to 20.6 inches, the largest weighing 4.4 pounds. Thirty-two percent of the catch was over 12 inches and 11% were longer than the legal length limit (15 inches). Multiple sizes (year classes) indicate successful reproduction after the winterkill event. Largemouth bass abundance is high, and the fish are healthy with an abundant forage of Bluegill and Golden Shiner.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were abundant and captured at a rate of 228 fish per hour (176 fish per hour in 2014). Bluegill ranged in size from 0.8 to 7.7 inches, with an average size of 6.0 inches. Seventy-two percent of the catch was longer than six inches. Hundreds of young of year Bluegill were also observed in the shallow shoreline area. Birmingham Pond would be a great place to bring a youngster to tie into some nice sized bluegills!

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Green Sunfish are also present in Birmingham Pond. Three Bluegill x Green Sunfish Hybrids were collected in the 2020 survey. This is not uncommon for these species and their offspring grow quickly! Golden Shiners are present in this pond as well, with five being caught in this survey and only one in the 2014 survey. This species is most likely a bait bucket introduction.

Summary of Catch at Birmingham Pond - 15 minutes DC electrofishing on 09/23/2020

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	72	7.2	20.6	11.5	0.24	4.41
Bluegill	57	0.8	7.7	6.0	0.02	0.33
Golden Shiner	5	3.0	8.6	6.7	0.13	0.29
Bluegill x Green Sunfish	3	6.2	7.2	6.8	0.21	0.32
Green Sunfish	1	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.07	0.07
Total # of Fish Collected	138					



For more information call the Fox Valley Park District at (630) 897-0516 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit: <http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org/lakes-and-fishing-2/>
 For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org
 To purchase your fishing license go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov