



Birmingham Pond

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 an 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). The first IDNR survey of this pond took place on May 29, 2014. A follow up trip to collect depth data is planned for the future.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Fox Valley Park District reported a significant winterkill (winter of 2013-14), but a fair number of fish made it through. Largemouth bass and bluegill abundance still fall within the numbers of a healthy pond. Excellent access makes Birmingham Pond a family friendly fishing location.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2014 electrofishing survey, 28 largemouth bass were caught in fifteen minutes of shocking (112 fish per hour). We consider anything over 60 fish per hour to be a healthy abundance measure. The average bass was 11.6 inches long and the catch ranged from 4.5 to 15.6 inches. The heaviest bass weighed 1.9 pounds. Seventy-nine percent of the catch was over 12 inches but only one legal size (15 inches) bass was caught. Larger bass may have been lost due to winterkill in the harsh winter of 2013-14. Multiple sizes (year classes) indicate successful reproduction in this lake in the past. The majority of the bass in the pond are adult fish so numbers should go up in this pond as these fish spawn in the future.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were abundant and captured at a rate of 176 fish per hour. Bluegill ranged in size from 2.7 to 7.8 inches, with an average size of 5.9 inches. Sixty-one percent of the catch was longer than six inches. Birmingham Pond would be a great place to bring a youngster to tie into some nice sized bluegills!

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: One Golden shiner was collected in Birmingham Pond. This was the first survey on record of this pond so not historical data is available.

Birmingham Pond Survey on May 29th, 2014**15 Minutes of D.C. Electrofishing**

Species	Number Collected	Length (inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	44	2.68	7.76	5.88	0.02	0.40
Largemouth bass	28	4.49	15.55	11.61	0.03	1.91
Golden shiner	1	4.45	4.45	4.45	0.01	0.01
Grand Total	73					

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