



Franklin Mill Pond

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Franklin Creek State Natural Area is located between Rochelle and Dixon, just north of IL RTE 38. On IL RTE 38 on the west side of the small town of Franklin Grove, turn north on Daysville Road and go one block to Old Mill Road. Turn left (west) on Old Mill Road and proceed one mile to the State Natural Area.

DESCRIPTION – Franklin Mill Pond is a 3-acre lake with a maximum depth of 6 feet and an average depth of 2 feet.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY –Franklin Creek Mill Pond receives a biannual stocking of Largemouth bass. Below is a description of the fishery.

Largemouth Bass:

Largemouth bass first appeared in the sample in 1997. This strong largemouth bass year class produced in 1997, probably from 1 or 2 pairs of brood bass. Previously the lake was stocked with Smallmouth bass due to flooding issues of Franklin Creek. The Largemouth population became the dominate black bass species and Smallmouth stocking stopped. The Largemouth bass population was sampled using DC electrofishing in the Spring as part of the biannual survey. The results of the 2023 spring survey can be found below. A total of 29 Largemouth bass were collected. The average size was 11.6 inches. Relative weights for all size groups fall into good and excellent ranges indicating appropriate food and adequate space.

<u>1.Management Plan Fall: Goal</u>				<u>2021</u>	<u>2023</u>
# Stock (200mm)	>25			17	23
PSD (95% CI)	40-60			65 (28)	74(26)
RSD 15	10-20		18	17	
Effort(Min)				10	10

2.Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) and Average Wr of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Franklin Mill Pond

<u>Year</u>	<u><8</u>	<u>8-12</u>	<u>12.1-15</u>	<u>15.1-20</u>	<u>> 20</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2021	12.0	36.0	42.0		24.0	0.0	114.0
Avg Wr (90)		(89)	(92)		(100)		
2023	36.0	36.0	78.0		31.7	0.0	174.0
Avg Wr (113)		(103)	(93)		(98)		

Bluegill:

In 1997, when the pond was first sampled, the survey was dominated by black bullheads and green sunfish. The Bluegill population was sampled using DC electrofishing in the Spring as part of the annual survey. Previous samples were done with AC electrofishing in the fall. Vegetation coverage during the past few falls have not allowed for a good sample so surveys will be moved to the Spring. A total of 93 bluegill were sampled in 2023. Catch rates for all size groups increased from the 2021 survey results, which is good. The dense numbers of fish in the 3–6-inch range will need to monitored in 2025. Relative weights for all size groups are in the good to excellent range. Vegetation is the driving constraint on this population. Population information for the 2021 survey can be found below.

<u>Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2023</u>
#Stock(80mm)	>50	30	82
PSD (95% CI)	20-60	3	11(8)
RSD 8	0-10	0	1(3)

2.Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Franklin Mill Pond

<u>Year</u>	<u><3</u>	<u>3.1-6</u>	<u>6.1-8</u>	<u>8.1-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2021	6.0	174.0	6.0	0.0	186.0
Avg Wr		(101)	(105)		
2023	66.0	438.0	48.0	6.0	558.0
Avg Wr		(107)	(96)	(106)	

Redear Sunfish:

The 2021 survey showed a good population of Redear sunfish that were not indicated in previous samples. The 2023 survey showed the larger individuals, greater than 9 inches, disappeared from the survey, likely due to harvest. Good numbers of the 3-7 inch from 2021 have moved into the 7–9-inch range and will provide for good fishing in 2024. Limited reproduction will have to be monitored for this population. Overall, this population is surprising due to cold spring water this pond receives as its main water supply.

<u>Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2023</u>
#Stock(80mm)	>50	41	22
PSD (95% CI)	20-60	12(12)	86(14)
RSD 10	0-10	0	0

2.Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Redear Sunfish collected at Franklin Mill Pond

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.9</u>	<u>3.9-7.1</u>	<u>7.1-9.1</u>	<u>9.1-11</u>	<u>11-13</u>	<u>Total</u>
2021	0.0	216.0	12.0	18.0	0.0	246.0
Avg Wr		(100)	(97)	(86)		
2023	6.0	18.0	114.0	0.0	0.0	138.0
Avg Wr		(100)	(108)			

Black Bullhead:

The number of black bullheads has gone from 336 per hour in 1997 to 30 per hour in 2000 to 12 per hour in 2002 to 28 in 2003 no bullheads were collected in 2005, only 1 in 2007 and none in 2011. The 2023 sample consisted of 3 in 10 mins indicating limited reproduction.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site-Specific fishing regulations:

- All Fish 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- Large or Smallmouth Bass 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit (15" Minimum Length Limit)
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish No Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
- Channel Catfish No Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)

CONTACT INFORMATION – Franklin Creek State Natural Area: 815-456-2878
IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185

Lake Map: