



Prairie Road Pond

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Prairie Road Pond is located in Kane County, 200 yards west of Orchard Road on the north side of Prairie in Aurora.

DESCRIPTION – Prairie Road Pond is a 15 acre dug lake which serves as a retention pond for a tributary of Blackberry Creek. The lake is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC). There is good shoreline fishing access available. There are no amenities at this pond, only parking (about 30 spaces) which is also used for the nearby jogging/bike path. No bathymetric map (depths) is available at this time.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: In 2014, the FPDKC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Channel catfish will be occasionally stocked to supplement the population. Site specific regulations apply. A thirty minute electrofishing survey was conducted on May 13, 2014.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – This pond should offer anglers an excellent chance at catching some big largemouth bass. Easy access makes this a great place to get the kids out of the house and go fishing.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Prairie Road Pond has one of the best largemouth bass populations in the area. We caught bass at a rate of 142 fish per hour (71 fish in 30 minutes of sampling). This is a very high abundance but relative weight (the measure of a fish’s “plumpness”) was high in all size categories. Forty-five percent of the catch was over 15 inches and 20% of the fish caught were over 18 inches. The largest fish in the sample were a pair of 21.5 inch bass that weighed 5.2 and 5.6 pounds. These fish have multiple forage species (see additional species below) and seem to be exploiting them well! Multiple size classes (age classes) were present in the sample indicating successful reproduction of adult largemouth bass.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill abundance (measured by catch rate) was extremely high at 426 fish per hour. This sample shows evidence of stunting in the bluegill population as the largest fish was only 6.5 inches long with an average size of 5.0 inches (only four percent of the sample was over six inches). We like to see bluegill catch rates around 120 fish per hour. This overabundance of bluegill may be due to the availability of gizzard shad to the largemouth bass. Harvest of this species (when regulations are determined) should help reduce abundance and allow for growth of larger bluegill.

BLACK CRAPPIE – One 6.6 inch black crappie was captured. The IDNR does not recommend stocking crappie into ponds this small as they are extremely successful spawners and their offspring can compete with bass and bluegill. Stocking crappie in this pond would only be feeding the abundant bass population.

CHANNEL CATFISH – One twenty-three inch channel catfish was caught in the most recent survey. It weighed a healthy 5.3 pounds. This lake will likely be entered into the IDNR channel catfish stocking program to help bolster the population.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES - As mentioned previously, gizzard shad are fairly abundant in this pond. Since this pond has connectivity to a stream system (Blackberry Creek), yellow bass, white sucker, common carp and green sunfish are also present.

Prairie Road Pond Fish Survey on May 13, 2014**30 minutes D.C. electrofishing**

Species	Number Collected	Length (inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill *	71	2.68	6.50	4.98	0.03	0.20
Largemouth bass	68	5.00	21.65	14.28	0.05	5.93
Yellow bass	19	5.59	9.21	6.72	0.05	0.37
Gizzard shad	11	3.78	13.07	9.05	0.14	0.64
White sucker	5	14.72	16.14	15.31	1.51	2.04
Common carp	3	8.43	16.34	11.93	0.39	3.23
Bluntnose minnow	2	2.44	3.31	2.87		
Black crappie	1	6.61	6.61	6.61	0.11	0.11
Channel catfish	1	23.03	23.03	23.03	5.30	5.30
Green sunfish	1	4.53	4.53	4.53	0.06	0.06
Total # of fish collected	182					

* indicates 10 minute sub-sample



For more information call the Forest Preserve District of Kane County at (630) 232-5980 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit:

www.kaneforest.com

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

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