



Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources

Fisheries Information Sheet

Medford Flowage, Taylor County, WI

Survey Year 2025

Introduction

Medford Flowage is located within the city park in downtown Medford. The lake is 19 acres, with a maximum depth of 8 feet. The flowage is classified as a simple riverine system, the flowage is an impoundment on the Black River.

The Park Falls Fisheries Management Team of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a late spring electrofishing survey (SE2) on the night of May 21, 2025. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate size structure and abundance of bass and bluegills. The electrofishing sample surveyed one complete circuit, 1.72 miles, around the entire shoreline collecting all species. The flowage has low conductivity, limiting the effectiveness of our gear and allowing fish to swim away before being captured. The water temperature was 52 degrees Fahrenheit. While bass and bluegills were the primary target species for this survey many other species were captured, such as black crappie, northern pike, rock bass, white sucker, yellow bullhead and yellow perch. Comparisons were made with a previous survey in 2018 on Medford Flowage and similar Wisconsin lakes in the same lake class.

Bluegill

There were 17 bluegills captured, and lengths ranged from 6.0 to 8.3 inches with an average length of 6.7 inches. The catch rate of the 2025 survey falls just short of the 10th percentile of a simple-riverine lake. The abundance of bluegill has slightly increased, while the percent of quality sized fish has greatly increased since the 2018 survey.

Table 1. Abundance and size structure of bluegills during late spring electrofishing survey in 2025 and 2018.

Survey Year	Number per mile	Number per mile ≥ 3 " (stock size)	Quality Size ≥ 6 "	Preferred Size ≥ 8 "
2025	9.9	9.9	100%	6%
2018	6.6	6.0	30%	10%

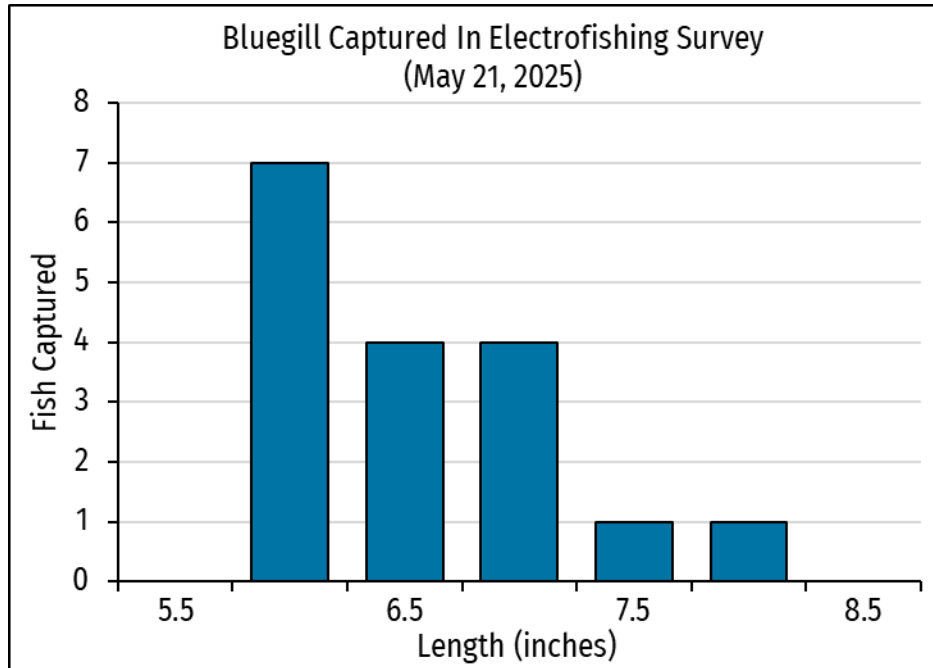


Figure 1. Size histogram of bluegill captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing survey of Medford Flowage in Taylor County, Wisconsin.

Largemouth Bass

There were four largemouth bass captured and lengths ranged from 8.6 to 14.0 inches with an average of 11.0 inches. In this sample 25% of the bass were legal size. The catch rate of the 2025 survey is slightly above the 10th percentile of a simple-riverine lake. The abundance and size structure of bass has decreased since the 2018 survey.

Table 2. Abundance and size structure of largemouth bass during late spring electrofishing survey in 2025 and 2018.

Survey Year	Number per mile	Number per mile $\geq 8''$ (stock size)	Quality Size $\geq 12''$	Preferred Size $\geq 15''$
2025	2.3	2.3	50%	0%
2018	4.2	4.2	86%	57%

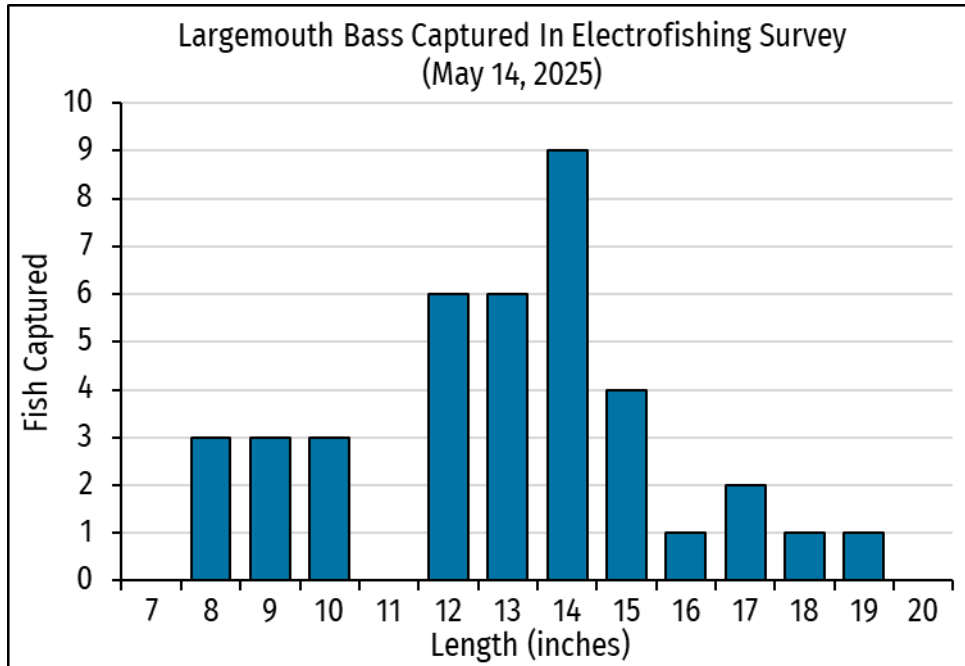


Figure 2. Size histogram of largemouth bass captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing survey of Medford Flowage in Taylor County, Wisconsin.

Pumpkinseed

There were 49 pumpkinseeds captured and lengths ranged from 3.2 to 7.9 inches with an average of 5.8 inches. The catch rate is just below the 75th percent classification for a simple riverine lake. The number of pumpkinseed has more than doubled while the size remains similar to the 2018 survey.

Table 3. Abundance and size structure of pumpkinseed during late spring electrofishing survey in 2025 and 2018.

Survey Year	Number per mile	Number per mile $\geq 3''$ (stock size)	Quality Size $\geq 6''$	Preferred Size $\geq 8''$
2025	28.5	28.5	41%	0%
2018	11.4	11.4	47%	0%

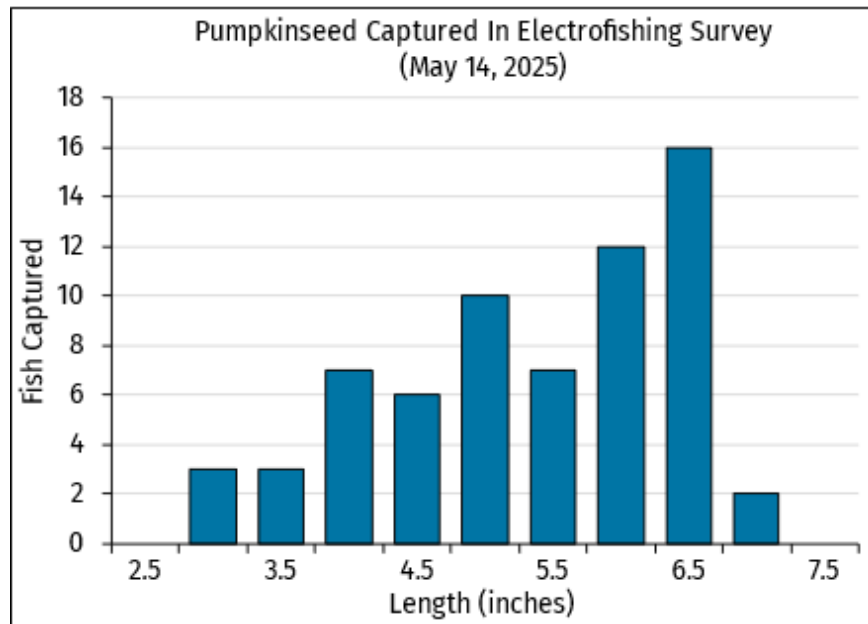


Figure 3. Size histogram of pumpkinseed captured during a spring 2025 electrofishing survey of Medford Flowage in Taylor County, Wisconsin.

OTHER SPECIES

There were 16 northern pike captured and lengths ranged from 10.9 to 24.1 inches. Other species captured included black crappie, rock bass, white sucker, yellow bullhead and yellow perch.

Summary

Medford Flowage provides a small fishery for anglers who would like the opportunity to toss a line in the water. There are two fishing piers that provide shore fishing along the entire west shoreline. This is a great opportunity for young anglers as it is located within city limits. According to our lake’s rotation schedule, Medford Flowage is scheduled for a late spring electrofishing survey in 2036.

Table 4. General fishing regulations for Medford Flowage, in Taylor County Wisconsin 2026-2027 fishing season.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
Largemouth Bass	First Saturday in May through first Sunday in March (Catch and release at all other times)	5 in total with smallmouth bass	14"
Muskellunge	First Saturday in May through December 31 st . (open water only)	1	40"

Northern Pike	First Saturday in May through first Sunday in March	5	None
Panfish	Open all year	25	None
Smallmouth Bass	Third Saturday in June through first Sunday in March. (Catch and release at all other times)	5 in total with largemouth bass	14"
Walleye	First Saturday in May through first Sunday in March	3	15" but less than 20" Except one over 24"

Fishing regulations for Medford Flowage, Taylor County and all Wisconsin lakes can be found online at [Fishing Regulations | Fishing Wisconsin | Wisconsin DNR](#)

For questions about fisheries management activities on Medford Flowage, contact:

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