WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Mini Boom Shocker Summary Report
Winnebago County Community Park, Winnebago Co.

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Introduction And Objectives

Winnebago County Community Park contains four ponds ranging from 1.7 to 4.7 acres. All ponds are open to public fishing. The main fishing pond, "Pond 2" has a fishing pier located near the parking area. Ponds 1, 3, and 4 have varying degrees of accessibility, from completely mowed shorelines to a single small opening in the riparian growth. The ponds flow into one another during periods of high water flowing from pond 1 in order down to pond 4. Pond 4 then flows into an unnamed tributary that flows into Lake Winnebago in Asylum Bay. The park is managed by Winnebago County and all ponds are intended for catch and release fishing opportunity.

DNR Contact

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Lake Information

Pond 1:
Shoreline Miles: .27 mi
Pond 2:
Shoreline Miles: .32 mi
Pond 3:
Shoreline Miles: .17 mi
Pond 4:
Shoreline Miles: .51 mi

SURVEY INFORMATION				
Site Location	**Survey Dates**	**Target Species**	**Gear**	**Number of Netters**
Pond 1	6/11/25	All	Mini Boom Shocker	1
Pond 2	6/5/25	All	Mini Boom Shocker	1
Pond 3	6/11/25	All	Mini Boom Shocker	1
Pond 4	6/11/25	All	Mini Boom Shocker	1

Survey Method

- Winnebago County Community Park Ponds were sampled according to Mini Boom Shocker protocols as outlined in DNR Fisheries Monitoring Protocols. The primary objective for these sampling periods is to count and measure gamefish and panfish species.
- Boom shocker was used to electrofish a total of 1.27 miles of shoreline. Gamefish and panfish species were collected and measured throughout.

Metric Descriptions

- **Catch per unit effort (CPUE) is an index used to measure fish population relative abundance**, which simply refers to the number of fish captured per unit of distance or time. For netting surveys, we typically quantify CPUE by the number and size of fish per net night. For electrofishing, we quantify CPUE as the number caught per mile of water electrofished. CPUE indexes are compared to statewide data by percentiles and within lake trends. For example, if a CPUE is in the 90th percentile, it is higher than 90% of the other CPUEs in the state.
- **Proportional Stock Density (PSD) is an index used to describe the size structure of fish populations.** It is calculated by dividing the number of quality size fish by the number of stock size fish for a given species. PSD values between 40 - 60 generally describe a balanced fish population.
- **Length frequency distribution (LFD) is a graphical representation of the number or percentage of fish captured by half-inch or one-inch size intervals.** Smaller fish (or younger age classes) may not always be represented in the length frequency due to different habitat usage or sampling gear limitations.

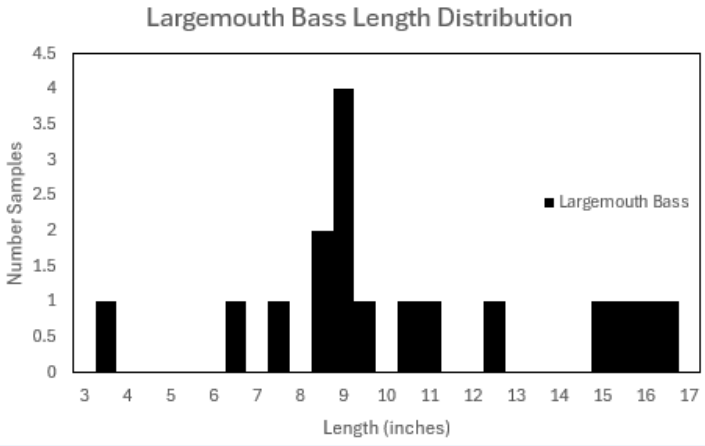

Pond #2
Pond #1
Pond #3
Pond #4

Largemouth Bass

- Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) are a common predatory fish species found in many Wisconsin waterbodies. Largemouth bass typically spawn in shallow nearshore areas consisting of sand/mud or gravel substrate at approximately 60-70°F water temperatures. Electrofishing is the preferred sampling gear for largemouth bass.

YEAR SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS FOR ALL PONDS COMBINED								
Total Number Measured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD	Percentile Rank	Size Rating
17	10.6	3.9-16.7	8.0 and 12.0 inches	14	5	36	19th	Low

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)						
Total Sampled	Pond 1	Pond 2	Pond 3	Pond 4	Average	2025 Statewide Percentile Rank
17	0	21.9	0	19.6	13.4	48th

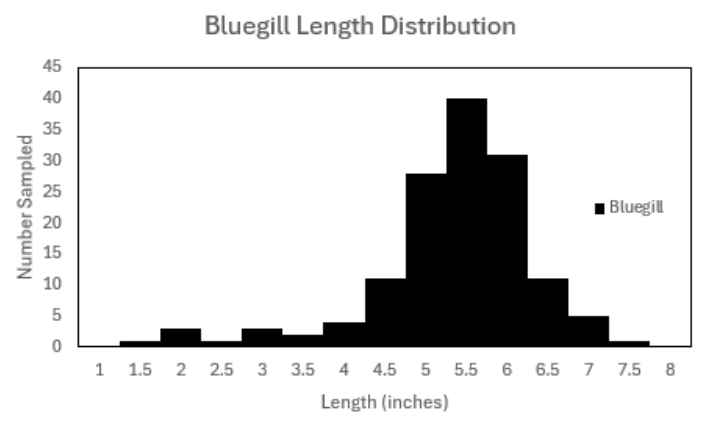


Bluegill

- Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) are a very common panfish species distributed widely across many Wisconsin waterbodies. Bluegill typically spawn in nearshore areas consisting of sand/mud or gravel substrate at approximately 67-80°F water temperatures. Electrofishing can be effective sampling gear for bluegill.

YEAR SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS FOR ALL PONDS COMBINED								
Total Number Measured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD	Percentile Rank	Size Rating
142	5.6	1.8-7.7	3.0 and 6.0 inches	137	49	36	53rd	Moderate

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)						
Total Sampled	Pond 1	Pond 2	Pond 3	Pond 4	Average	2025 Statewide Percentile Rank
142	18.5	159.4	0	166.7	111.8	59th

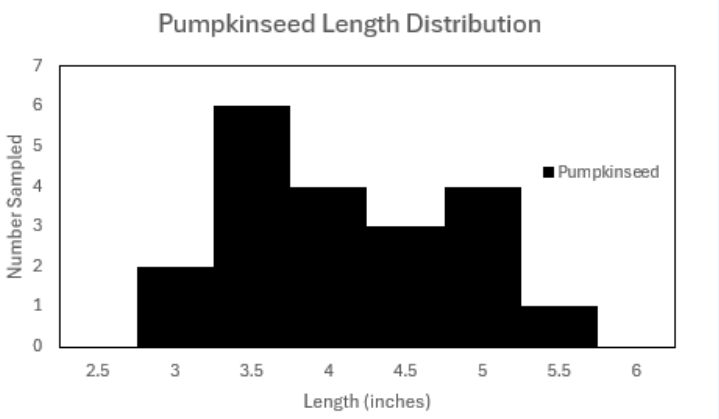


Pumpkinseed

- Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*) are a common panfish species distributed widely across many Wisconsin waterbodies. Pumpkinseed typically spawn in nearshore areas consisting of sand or gravel substrate at approximately 60-70°F water temperatures. Electrofishing and fyke netting can be effective sampling gear for pumpkinseed and therefore, results from both gears are presented for pumpkinseed.

YEAR SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS FOR ALL PONDS COMBINED								
Total Number Measured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD	Percentile Rank	Size Rating
20	4.3	3.4-4.7	3.0 and 6.0	20	0	0	0	Low

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)						
Total Sampled	Pond 1	Pond 2	Pond 3	Pond 4	Average	2025 Statewide Percentile Rank
17	0	21.9	0	19.6	13.4	48th



Yellow Perch

- Yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) are a common panfish species found throughout many Wisconsin waterbodies. Typically yellow perch spawn in areas of emergent or submergent vegetation or submerged brush at approximately 45-50°F water temperatures. Electrofishing can be effective sampling gear for yellow perch.

YEAR SIZE STRUCTURE METRICS FOR ALL PONDS COMBINED								
Total Number Measured	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	Stock and Quality Size (inches)	Stock Number	Quality Number	PSD	Percentile Rank	Size Rating
4	3.9	3.7-4.2	5.0 and 8.0	0	0	0	0	Low

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (CPUE = NUMBER PER MILE)						
Total Sampled	Pond 1	Pond 2	Pond 3	Pond 4	Average	2025 Statewide Percentile Rank
4	0	0	0	7.8	3.1	25th

Summary

Pond 1

Pond 1 had moderate bluegill abundance (18.5 fish/mile) with low size structure (average length = 4.6 inches). There were also abundant forge fish species present. The abundance of small panfish in the pond indicate that a stocking of a predator species such as largemouth bass could lower the abundance of bluegill which may lead to an increase size structure. Largemouth bass would also provide additional angling opportunity. Other species present were green sunfish, bluegill x pumpkinseed hybrid, and large amounts of golden shiners.

Pond 2

Pond 2 had high bluegill abundance (159.4 fish/mile) and low size structure (average length = 5.9 inches). The average size of bluegill was larger in pond 2 compared to pond 1, which could be related to the presence of largemouth bass in pond 2. Pond 2 had the highest largemouth bass catch per effort (CPE) out of all ponds surveyed (21.9 fish/mile), but size structure was low (average length = 9.1 inches). All ponds in Winnebago County Community Park are intended for catch and release fishing, promoting harvest of bluegill in pond 2 may aid in reducing their abundances and promote better size structure. Other species present in pond 2 were black crappie and green sunfish in very low densities.

Pond 3

Pond 3 was reported to have experienced a winter kill in 2025. Only a single golden shiner was observed in the survey. Due to the winter kill it would be advised to make modifications to the pond to avoid future winter kill events. This could include the installment of an aerator to keep the water oxygenated throughout winter. As well an evaluation of pond depth would provide insight whether the pond can continue to support a fishery. Ponds 1 and 2 drain to pond 3 though the connectivity of the ponds and potential for fish passage between the ponds is not well understood. Fish from other ponds may travel to pond 3 and provide future fishing opportunity. It is unknown whether or not fish have the ability to travel between ponds, so a stocking of bluegills and largemouth bass could expediate the replenishment of fish once winter kill issues are resolved.

Pond 4

Pond 4 had high bluegill abundance (166.7 fish/mile) with small size structure (average length = 5.4 inches). Largemouth bass CPE in pond 4 was similar to pond 2 (19.6/mile). The average size of the bass was 11.7 inches. There were 4 common carp captured in pond 4. The water in pond 4 was more turbid compared to the other 3 ponds and this may be due to bio-turbulation from the carp stirring up sediment as they forage. It is unknown where the carp came from but they may have entered the pond through the tributary that flows into Lake Winnebago during a high-water event. A reduction in abundance of bluegill may benefit size structure. Other species captured in pond 4 were green sunfish and bullhead both in very low densities.