SURVEY REPORT
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

FISH MANAGEMENT SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

Veteran's Park Pond

2025

SURVEY REPORT

State: Oklahoma

Project Title: Veteran's Park Pond Fish Management Survey Report

Period Covered: 2025

Prepared by: Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory

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Veteran's Park Pond

ABSTRACT

Veteran's Park Pond was surveyed by spring electrofishing and fall trap netting in 2025 to assess the fish populations. These were the first instances of sampling done by ODWC to take place at this pond. The fishery consists of Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Gizzard Shad and various Sunfishes (Bluegill, Redear, Green and Hybrid). Channel Catfish were not collected in either sampling event but have been stocked in this pond prior. No regulation changes are recommended at this time.

INTRODUCTION

Veteran's Park Pond is in Newcastle, McClain County, Oklahoma. The pond has a shoreline length of 0.30 miles, a maximum depth of 8.00, and a surface area of 2.70 acres. The pond was constructed in 2021 and provides opportunities for angling. The other park amenities are walking trails, restrooms, sports fields, and a splashpad. Gizzard Shad are the primary forage species.

Close To Home Fishing regulations apply at this site, which includes an aggregate limit of three panfish, rainbow trout, and channel catfish per person per day. Fishing is limited to no more than three rods and reels per person with no more than three hooks per line; treble hooks are considered one hook. No other fishing methods are permitted.

Spider Block fish attractors are dispersed throughout the lake.

Veteran's Park Pond had not been previously sampled by ODWC. The pond has been stocked with Hybrid Sunfish, Bluegill Sunfish and Channel Catfish (Appendix 1).

Aquatic Nuisance Species

There are no known ANS species in Veteran's Park Pond.

RESULTS

Electrofishing- All Species (41)

Overview

Veteran's Park Pond was sampled by boat-mounted electrofishing on May 5, 2025. The average water temperature was 20°C. The entirety of the shoreline was sampled for a total of two units of effort (two, 10-minute runs). A total of 39 fish were collected across four species. The most abundant species were Green Sunfish (n = 27).

Green Sunfish

Mean Total Length (TL) of Green Sunfish was 96 mm with a minimum TL of 67 and a maximum TL of 167 (Table 1). The mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) of Green Sunfish was 81 with a standard error (SE) of 45 resulting in a 95% confidence interval (CI) ranging from -7.20 to 169.20 (Table 2). Green Sunfish relative standard error (RSE) was 55.56, suggesting CPUE is unlikely to detect any changes in relative abundance for the species. Likewise, RSE values for the sub stock (CPUE = 24, CI = 11 – 59), stock (CPUE = 51, CI = -10 – 92), and quality (CPUE = 6, CI = -6 – 17) categories also suggested CPUE is unlikely to detect changes in relative abundance for any size categories (Table 3).

Overall mean relative weight (Wr) for Green Sunfish at Veteran's Park Pond was 86.86, which is below acceptable (i.e., ≥90); however, quality size Green sunfish exhibited a Wr of 93.81.

Trap Net- Random (31.02)

Overview

Crappie spp. (hereafter Crappie) were sampled at Veteran's Park Pond using modified fyke nets (hereafter trap nets) from October 22-23, 2025. White and Black Crappie were measured and analyzed as an aggregate. Hybrid Sunfish and Bluegill Sunfish were also captured frequently. The average water temperature was 17°C. Sites were randomly chosen as specified by ODWC standard sampling procedure (SSP) for a total of three net nights, or 72 hours of effort.

Crappie

Mean Total Length (TL) of Crappie at Veteran's Park Pond was 130 mm with a minimum TL of 90 mm and a maximum TL of 200 mm (Table 4). Mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) of Crappie was 856 with a SE of 58, resulting in a 95% confidence interval (CI) ranging from 743 to 969 Crappie per trap net (Table 5). Crappie RSE was 6.74 suggesting that CPUE can be used to detect a future change in relative abundance with this gear. However, RSE values for sub stock (24.41) and stock (20.20) size White Crappie suggested this would be less effective for size categories, with almost no chance of detecting changes in relative

abundance of quality size individuals (Table6). Overall mean relative weights (Wr) for Crappie (89.75) were just below acceptable (89.75), with quality sized White Crappie exhibiting good condition (Wr = 103.84). A subsample of 67 Crappie collected for ageing. All crappie were between 0 years old and 1 year old making construction of a growth curve impossible. The majority (~75%) of the subsampled Crappie were age 0.

Hybrid Sunfish

Mean TL of Hybrid Sunfish was 127 mm with a minimum TL of 68 mm and a maximum TL of 115 (Table 4). Mean CPUE of Hybrid Sunfish was 488 with a SE of 129 resulting in a CI ranging from 236 to 740 Bluegill per trap net (Table 5). Bluegill Sunfish RSE was 26.27, suggesting CPUE is unlikely to detect any changes in relative abundance for the species (i.e., ~62%). At this point in time Hybrid Sunfish do not have a standard weight equation or defined proportional size distribution (PSD) classes.

Bluegill Sunfish

Bluegill Sunfish at Veteran's Park Pond had a mean TL of 110 mm with a minimum TL of 69 mm and maximum TL of 190 mm (Table 4). Mean CPUE of Bluegill Sunfish was 272 with a SE of 70 resulting in a CI ranging from 135 to 409 Bluegill per trap net (Table 5). Bluegill Sunfish RSE was 69.74, suggesting CPUE is unlikely to detect any changes in relative abundance for the species. Likewise, RSE values for sub stock (57.74) and stock (25.00) suggested CPUE is unlikely to detect changes in relative abundance for any size categories (Table 6). Overall mean Wr was below acceptable (85.33); stock and quality size classes Wr values were also below acceptable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to monitor fish populations.
2. Consider adding Largemouth Bass to introduce a predator to regulate crappie and sunfish populations.

Table 1. Sample size, mean TL (mm), mean weight (g), and associated ranges for each species collected via electrofishing.

Species	Number	Mean TL (range)	Mean Weight (range)
Green Sunfish	27	96 (67-167)	19 (5-90)
Hybrid Sunfish	8	100 (92-115)	18 (15-30)
Largemouth Bass	2	450 (444-455)	1460 (1455-1460)
Redear Sunfish	2	88.5 (76-101)	88.5

Table 2. Total catch per unit effort for each species collected via electrofishing.

Species	Mean	Count	RSE	SE	L 95% CI	U 95% CI	N RSE = 12.5 (25% range)	N RSE = 20 (40% range)
Green Sunfish	81	2	55.56	45.00	-7.20	169.20	40	15
Hybrid Sunfish	24	2	25.00	6.00	12.24	35.76	8	3
Largemouth Bass	6	2	100.00	6.00	-5.76	17.76	128	50
Redear Sunfish	6	2	100.00	6.00	-5.76	17.76	128	50

Table 3. Catch per unit effort by size category from electrofishing.

Species	Size Category	Mean	RSE	SE	L 95% CI	U 95% CI	N RSE = 12.5 (25% range)	N RSE = 20 (40% range)
Green Sunfish	Substock	24	75.00	18.00	11.28	59.28	72	28
Green Sunfish	Stock	51	41.18	21.00	9.84	92.16	22	8
Green Sunfish	Quality	6	100.00	6.00	-5.76	17.76	128	50
Largemouth Bass	Preferred	6	100.00	6.00	-5.76	17.76	128	50
Redear Sunfish	Substock	3.00	100.00	3.00	-2.88	8.88	128	50
Redear Sunfish	Stock	3.00	100.00	3.00	-2.88	8.88	128	50

Table 4. Sample size, mean TL (mm), mean weight (g), and associated ranges for each species collected with trap nets.

Species	Number	Mean TL (range)	Mean Weight (range)
Bluegill Sunfish	34	110 (69-190)	27 (4-116)
Gizzard Shad	15	81 (75-102)	4 (2-8)
Green Sunfish	7	91 (68-115)	12 (4-22)
Hybrid Sunfish	61	127 (71-225)	49 (4-262)
White Crappie*	107	130 (90-200)	25 (8-110)

*Crappie spp. analyzed in aggregate

Table 5. Total catch per unit effort for each species collected with trap nets.

Species	Mean	Count	RSE	SE	L 95% CI	U 95% CI	N RSE = 12.5 (25% range)	N RSE = 20 (40% range)
Bluegill Sunfish	272	3	25.64	69.74	135.30	408.70	13	5
Gizzard Shad	120	3	52.92	63.50	-4.46	244.46	54	21
Green Sunfish	56	3	57.14	32.00	-6.72	118.72	63	24
Hybrid Sunfish	488	3	26.38	128.75	235.65	740.35	13	5
White Crappie*	856	3	6.74	57.69	742.93	969.07	1	0

*Crappie spp. analyzed in aggregate

Table 6. Catch per unit effort by size category collected with trap nets.

Species	Size Category	Mean	RSE	SE	L 95% CI	U 95% CI	N RSE = 12.5 (25% range)	N RSE = 20 (40% range)
Bluegill Sunfish	Substock	24	57.74	13.86	-3.16	51.16	54	25
Bluegill Sunfish	Stock	192	25.00	48.00	12.35	124.35	74	29
Gizzard Shad	Substock	120	52.92	63.50	-4.46	244.46	54	21
Green Sunfish	Substock	24	57.74	13.86	-.316	51.16	64	25
Green Sunfish	Stock	32	66.14	21.17	-9.49	73.49	84	33
White Crappie*	Substock	496	24.41	121.06	258.72	733.28	11	4
White Crappie*	Stock	352	20.20	71.11	212.63	491.37	8	3
White Crappie*	Quality	8	100.00	8.00	-7.68	23.68	192	75

*Crappie spp. analyzed in aggregate

Appendix 1. Species, number, and size of fish stocked in Veteran's Park Pond since 2021.

Date	Species	Number	Size (inches)
2021	Hybrid Sunfish	400	9
2021	Channel Catfish	90	14
2021	Hybrid Sunfish	240	5-6
2022	Channel Catfish	183	16
2022	Hybrid Sunfish	400	5
2023	Channel Catfish	50	18
2023	Channel Catfish	50	20
2023	Hybrid Sunfish	500	5
2024	Channel Catfish	100	12
2025	Bluegill Sunfish	300	5-8
2025	Channel Catfish	100	18+