

# Small Lake Management Brief

*March 2021*



We sampled the fish population in the Small Lake on March 24, 2021.

The fish population remains heavily  
"Bass Crowded"

Although bass remain stunted and relatively thin, bluegill reproduction was moderately successful in 2020 and we saw "intermediate" sized bluegills (which serve as forage for the smaller bass) again this year. So some progress has been made.

Average length for bass in the sample is 11.8" (exactly where it was in 2018) and average weight is 12.5 oz. (up from 11 oz in 2018.) In 2018 bass weighed only 82% of what they should weigh if in good condition, but now average 90% of "standard" weight. In essence, **bass**

are somewhat plumper and in minimally better condition, but still far too thin for their length (cigar shaped rather than football shaped).



## *Specific Recommendations for 2021*

1. Continue to supplement the forage base by transferring an additional 100 pairs of **ADULT** bluegills from Browning Creek Lake ASAP. **Care should be taken to ensure that at least equal numbers of males/females are stocked. A majority of females is also acceptable.**
2. Focus on removal of bass under 12" (transfer to the big lake if desired) up to total of 200 in 2021.
3. Do not remove any bluegills or redears. Catch and release is acceptable and can provide opportunity to enjoy the relatively large bluegills and redears without compromising the management objectives.

