



## **Bryan Park Lakes 2010**

The Bryan Park Lakes, located off Hermitage Road in Northern Richmond, are owned and operated by The City of Richmond. The two, 6-acre lakes are separated by a dam and have traditionally had water quality problems due to discharge from the railroad yard upstream. The lakes were stocked with largemouth bass, sunfish, and catfish in the past, but catfish stocking was discontinued due to water quality issues. Only the upper lake has available access for electrofishing sampling gear, but each lake has plenty of shoreline access for anglers.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the fish community of the upper Bryan Park Lake was sampled using boat electrofishing gear. A total of nine species of fish were collected with bluegill being the most abundant species collected, followed by golden shiners, and pumpkinseed (Table 1). Bluegill and golden shiners were highly abundant indicating a lack of predator fish species in the lake. Unsurprisingly, no largemouth bass were collected in the sample and only one black crappie was collected. This lake is prone to water quality problems, and these problems could have caused unknown fish kills in the past, especially for larger predatory fish. To reestablish the bass population, 1,200 fingerling bass were stocked in the upper lake in June of 2009. At this time, bass and sunfish anglers should fish another body of water until both fisheries are reestablished. The bass will continue to be managed under the current regulation of only two bass per day over the minimum size limit of 15 inches.

Although sunfish were abundant (primarily bluegill), the majority of sunfish collected were small. Sunfish ranged in size from 2 to 7 inches. Ninety-four percent of sunfish captured were greater than the stock size of 3 inches but less than 8% of sunfish collected were greater than the quality size of 6 inches. No sunfish greater than 7 inches were collected.

No channel catfish were collected during the survey, which is not surprising considering they have not been stocked in the lakes in many years. A few bullhead catfish and a white catfish were collected during the sample (Table 1). These fish ranged in size from 6 to 10 inches and can be very fun to catch, especially for young anglers. Bullhead catfish can easily be captured with corn, worms, or other live baits. A final note for anglers is that a number of large common carp (3-10 lbs) were observed in the lower lake. These fish are fun for anyone to catch and can be captured with dough baits, corn, or specially formulated carp bait.

No boats are allowed in the Bryan Park Lakes, but the lakes can be accessed along the shorelines. The park has many amenities including picnic shelters, a Frisbee golf range, and restrooms. Bryan Park Lake can be reached by traveling north on I-95. Take the Hermitage Road/Lakeside Avenue exit. Turn right onto Hermitage and the park entrance will be on the left.

For more information on Bryan Park Lakes, please contact:

Johnathan Harris  
District Fisheries Biologist  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
4010 West Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23230  
(804) 367-6764

Table 1. Species account and catch rates for fish collected throughout the upper Bryan Park Lake in 2009.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number Collected</b>	<b>CPUE (fish/hour)</b>	<b>Percentage of Catch</b>
Black Crappie	1	2	0.6
Bluegill	81	194	49.7
Brown Bullhead	7	17	4.3
Creek Chubsucker	5	12	3.1
Golden Shiner	53	127	32.5
Pumpkinseed	11	26	6.7
Warmouth	4	10	2.5
White catfish	1	2	0.6