



Dorey Park Lake 2010

Dorey Park Lake, located on Darbytown Road in eastern Henrico, is owned and operated by Henrico County. The 5-acre lake is managed under the Department's Urban Lake Program and is stocked with harvestable-sized trout and channel catfish. The lake was built in old borrow pits and traditionally has had problems with water quality (low pH and dissolved oxygen). Periodic lime applications and an aeration fountain have helped to alleviate the issues, but in the summer of 2008, a major fish kill eliminated most of the fisheries in the lake. Bluegill and bass were restocked in the lake in 2008 along with the trout and catfish.

On April 29th, 2009, the fish community of Dorey Park Lake was sampled using boat electrofishing gear. Six species of fish were collected with pumpkinseed being the most abundant species collected, followed by channel catfish, and bluegill (Table 1). Sunfish (pumpkinseed and bluegill) were highly abundant during the sample, and small individuals (all sunfish < 6 inches) dominated their populations. No largemouth bass were collected in the sample, indicating that the lake lacks a predator species to control the sunfish. To reestablish the bass population, 500 fingerling bass were stocked in Dorey Park 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 one bass per day over the minimum size limit of 18 inches.

Seven trout were collected in the sample and were holdovers from the fall and winter urban stockings. Trout collected ranged in size from nine to 12 inches (average length of 10 inches). A surprisingly large number of channel catfish ($N = 31$) were collected with the electrofishing gear. These fish ranged in size from 8 to 14.5 inches (average size of 10 inches). The lake was not scheduled to be stocked with catfish until the summer so these fish were holdovers from 2008. Channel catfish and trout continue to be stocked annually at high rates, so anglers have a good chance of catching their limit especially just after the stocking date. Anglers must possess a trout license in addition to a fishing license between November 1 and April 30. A trout license is not required from May 1 through October 31 or for juveniles under age 16.

No boats are allowed in Dorey Park Lake, but all of the lake can be accessed along the shoreline. The park has many amenities including picnic shelters, a children's play area, a Frisbee range, soccer fields, lighted baseball fields, tennis courts, a horse ring and numerous riding trails. Dorey Park Lake can be reached by traveling south on Laburnum Avenue and then turning left on Darbytown Road. The entrance to the park will be on the right, and the official visiting hours for the park are sunrise to sunset.

For more information on Dorey Park Lake, please contact:

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

Species	Number Collected	CPUE (fish/hour)	Percentage of Catch
Bluegill	12	40	5.7
Pumpkinseed	156	519	74.6
Channel Catfish	31	103	14.8
Brown Trout	6	20	2.9
Rainbow Trout	1	3	0.5
Golden Shiner	3	10	1.4

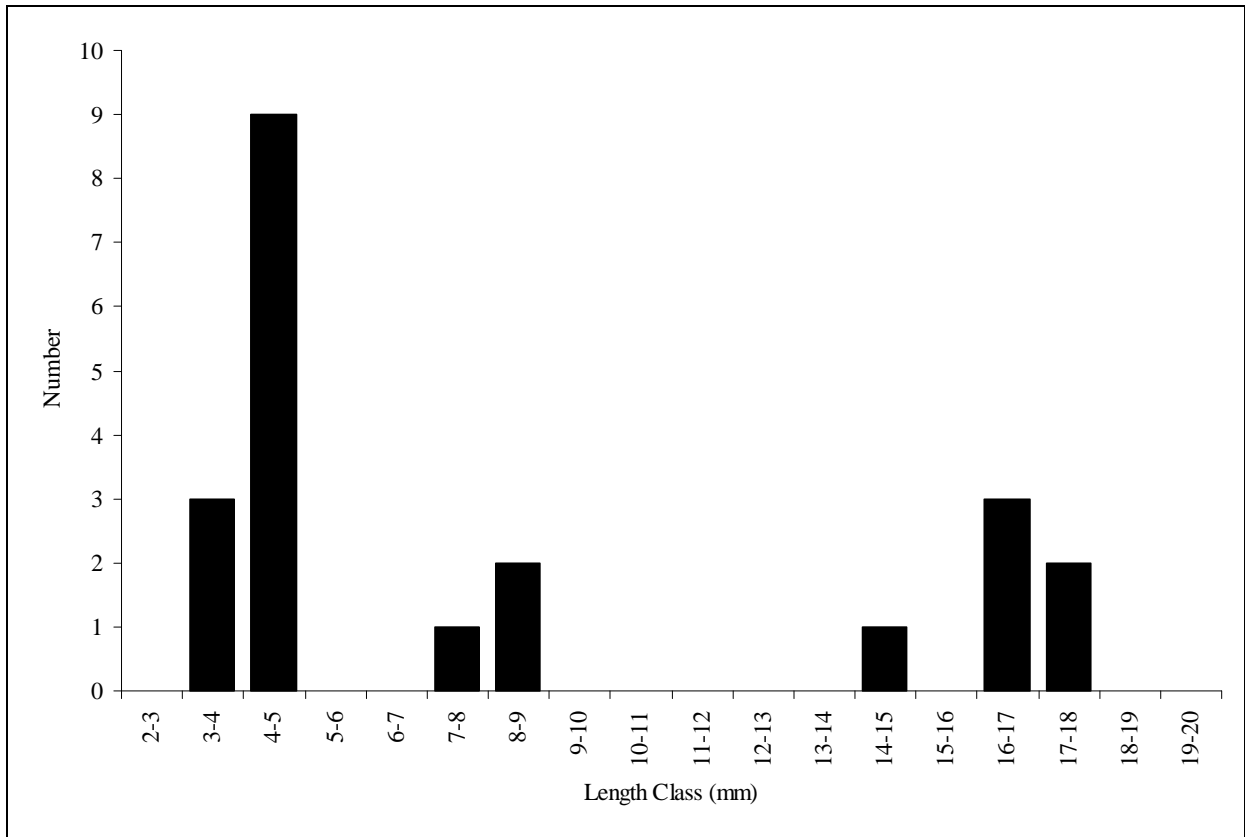


Figure 1. Length distribution of largemouth bass collected with electrofishing gear Crump Lake Park in 2009.