

Griffith Lake

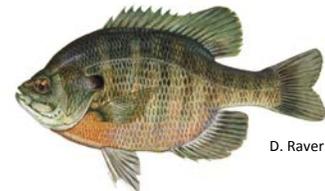
32.2 acres

Milford, DE

Fish community

The Division of Fish and Wildlife evaluated the fish community via electrofish sampling in the spring of 2015. The water level in the pond was down a few feet due to inadequate precipitation and withdrawal for agricultural irrigation. As a result, portions of the pond were too shallow to effectively sample with electrofishing gear. Seining was conducted in the summer to supplement the assessment. Results from sampling indicate a low density Largemouth Bass population dominated by fish >12". Several citation sized bass (>5lbs or >20") have been reported by anglers the past few years, including two ≥24". Spawning was poor in 2015 and recruitment has been sporadic. It is possible that low water levels in the spring reduce the amount of suitable spawning habitat. Relative weight (measure of condition or plumpness) for all but the smallest bass was poor. In an effort to restore balance and supplement the population, over 500 Largemouth Bass of various sizes were stocked in the fall of 2015. Efforts are also underway to improve availability of spawning habitat.

There is adequate forage in the pond-Bluegill and Golden Shiner are abundant-therefore foraging efficiency of predators, such as bass, may be impacted by the excessive coverage of hydrilla that has plagued this pond in recent years. Aquatic vegetation is beneficial to fish communities but at too high a density it can be difficult and energy costly for predators to catch prey which are seeking shelter in the vegetation. The prey in turn can become overabundant which impacts their growth and condition. The length frequency distribution of



There is a healthy population of Bluegill in Griffith Lake

Bluegill was inconsistent indicating variable spawning and recruitment the last few years; however, spawning in 2015 was very successful. Average relative weight of Bluegill was good and the proportion of Bluegill >8" was higher than previously observed in 2010. Although abundance is low overall, the proportion of Black Crappie >8" is also high. It is common for anglers to report catching citation sized (≥12" of ≥1lb) crappie. Spawning was successful in 2015; however there is a lack of intermediate sized crappie indicating sporadic recruitment. Other panfish that occur in the pond were less abundant, including: Pumpkinseed and Yellow Perch. Bluegill x Pumpkinseed hybrids were also documented which is not uncommon in ponds where two species in the Lepomis family occur. White perch were not documented although they were noted in 2010. Other species observed during 2015 included: Common Carp, American Eel, Creek Chubsucker, and Chain Pickerel.

Vegetation

Hydrilla, a rooted submersed plant, has been excessive in recent years prompting the Division of Fish and Wildlife to apply herbicide treatments. The treatments have caused major declines in the vegetative density but it does not take long for this aggressive plant to reestablish. Because some level of vegetation is beneficial to fish communities, the Division strives to maintain 40% coverage, not complete elimination. Floating mats of filamentous algae (threadlike strands) can also become excessive during the summer, especially in the upper third of the pond where the shallowest depths occur.

Special Conditions

In March 2009, Eastern Shore Bassmasters installed a number of brush piles in the lake to improve habitat. One structure is immediately to the left of the floating pier in front of the bulkhead and is marked with white PVC poles.

Access

The boat ramp at this pond is quite steep and narrow. It requires some maneuvering and you may need two people to safely launch as the road is immediately adjacent. The parking lot is relatively small, limited to 4 vehicles with trailers at most. Some improvements were made during the 2006 repair of the water control structure, both at the ramp and at the bulkhead. The ramp is now somewhat wider and easier to maneuver with a boat trailer. The improved bulkhead provides good shore fishing access. Some shore angling is also available along the bank which parallels County Rd 633 (Griffith Drive). There is also a floating dock adjacent to the boat ramp that can be used to cast a line in deeper water.



The boat ramp is located off of Williamsville Rd, west of Milford.



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Clean all recreational equipment.
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When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



Help us stop the spread of invasive species

(See Pond Map on next page)

Griffith Lake Sussex County, 2015



Surface Acres - 32.2
Max. Depth - 6'
Pond Volume - 143 acre-feet

Depth Contours are
1ft intervals; the deepest
contours are labeled

Boat ramp and parking
area can be accessed
from Williamsville Road

Williamsville Rd

Griffith Lake Dr

0 125 250 500 Feet

Legend

- Flow
- P Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Vegetation
- Hydrilla

