



St. Vrain State Park Ponds

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: St. Vrain is a perfect destination for anglers, campers, birders, photographers, and just about anyone who enjoys nature. A total of 10 ponds offer angling for rainbow trout, bass, crappie, perch, bluegill, walleye, catfish, and more. For more information visit the park's website:

<http://parks.state.co.us/parks/stvrain/Pages/StVrainHome.aspx>

Location: I-25 and HWY 119 (east of Longmont)

Recreational Management: Colorado State Parks

Fishery Management: DOW; warm water angling with put and take trout

Purchase a Fishing License: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/>

Amenities

- Camping sites (tent, electric, full hook-up)
- Excellent wildlife viewing
- Universally accessible fishing piers and trail system
- Educational Kiosks
- Modern restrooms
- Picnic sites

Regulations

- Statewide bag/possession limits apply (daily bag limit for trout is 4, see regulation brochure for more information). <http://wildlife.state.co.us/NR/rc/onlyres/6DE0299B-B621-4248-B56A-00DFF8A66BB3/0/fishing.pdf>

- Bald Eagle pond is catch and release only for largemouth and smallmouth bass. No bait fishing is allowed in this pond.

- Blue Heron Pond, 21-inch minimum for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Previous Stocking

2012*

- Black Crappie
- Bluegill
- Channel Catfish
- Grass Carp
- Largemouth Bass
- Rainbow Trout
- Redear Sunfish
- Saugeye

2011

- Black Crappie
- Bluegill
- Channel Catfish
- Grass Carp
- Largemouth Bass
- Rainbow Trout
- Redear Sunfish
- Sauger
- Saugeye
- Smallmouth Bass
- Walleye

*see table below for specifics

Sportfishing Notes

Rainbow Trout

- Spinners, bait (powerbait & nightcrawlers), and flies are all productive tools. Fishing is typically best April-June and during the winter.

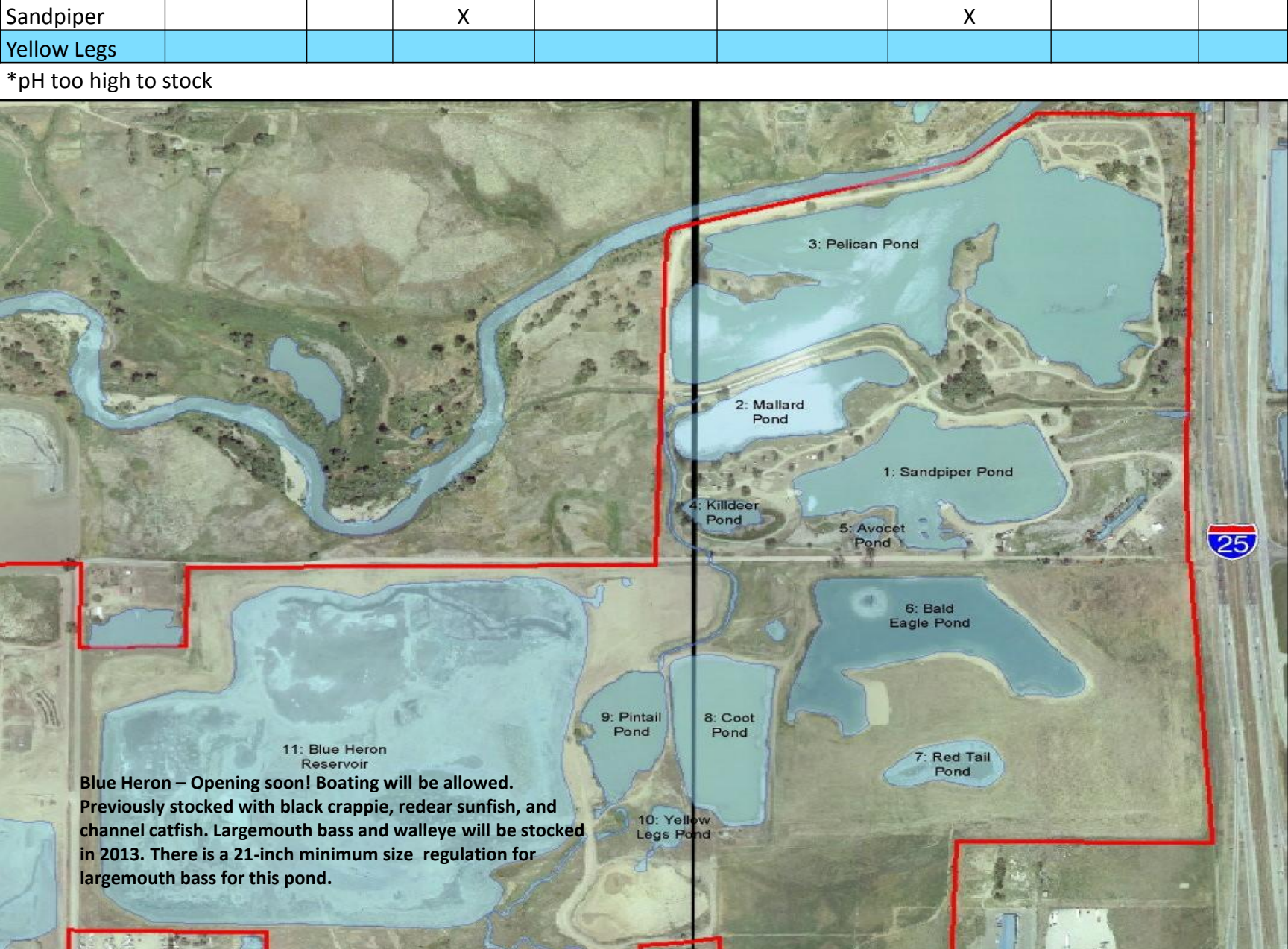
- At times the rainbows are so aggressive they often deep hook themselves while attacking bait. Anglers who encounter a deep hooked trout are highly encouraged to keep these fish. Trout hooked in this fashion will not survive.

- More than 40,000 ten inch rainbow trout are stocked annually to accommodate the heavy angling pressure. Trout are primarily stocked in Sandpiper, Mallard, and Coot Ponds. Trout are strategically stocked in the spring and fall when cooler water temperatures prevail and to increase ice fishing opportunities.

Table Below: The 2012 complete stocking by fish species for the individual ponds at St. Vrain State Park.

Pond	Black Crappie	Bluegill	Ch. Catfish	Grass Carp (Sterile)	Largemouth Bass	Rainbow Trout	Redear Sunfish	Saugeye
Bald Eagle		X	X	X	X			
Blue Heron	X		X				X	
Coot	X		X			X		X
Killdeer			X					
Mallard			X			X		
Pelican	X		X	X		X	X	
Pintail*								
Red Tail		X				X		
Sandpiper			X			X		
Yellow Legs								

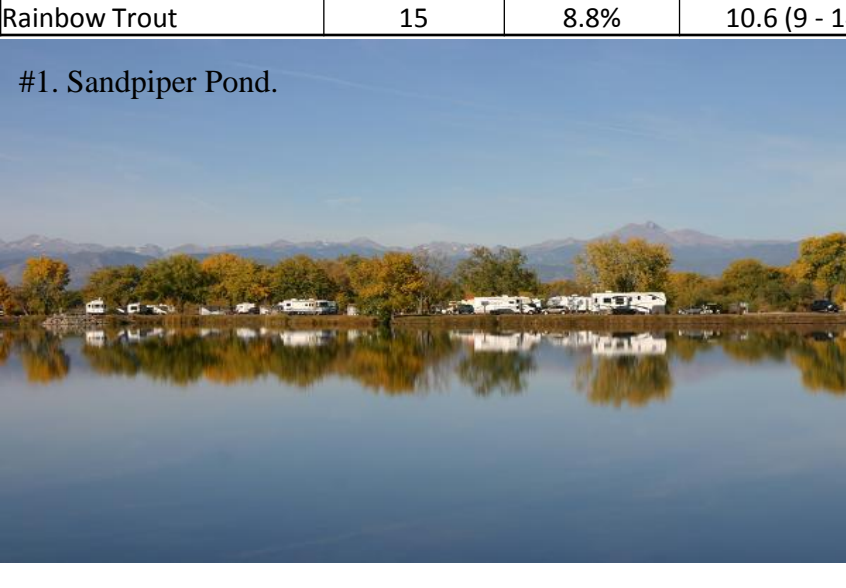
*pH too high to stock



#1. Sandpiper Pond 06/24/2010 Survey; 2 gillnets & 15 min. boat electrofishing.

2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	20	11.7%	6.2 (2 - 8)	0.13
Bluegill	42	24.6%	4.2 (2 - 5)	0.05
Channel Catfish	37	21.6%	9.8 (7 - 15)	0.30
Common Carp	28	16.4%	18.7 (17 - 23)	3.04
Green Sunfish	1	0.6%	6.1	0.15
Largemouth Bass	28	16.4%	11.5 (2 - 19)	1.04
Rainbow Trout	15	8.8%	10.6 (9 - 14)	0.40

Left: The summary of the 2010 survey for Sandpiper Pond. This pond is primarily managed for 10-inch trout which are heavily stocked in the spring and late fall (ice angling). Roughly 26,000 catchable trout are stocked annually. Besides trout, good numbers of catfish and bass (up to 18") were present. Bluegill and crappie are present but are rather small.



#2. Mallard Pond 06/24/2010 Survey; 2 gillnets overnight.

2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	19	26.8%	6.6 (5 - 8)	0.15
Bluegill	9	12.7%	4.3 (3 - 7)	0.07
Channel Catfish	1	1.4%	21.5	4.72
Common Carp	23	32.4%	22.0 (17 - 24)	4.88
Green Sunfish	1	1.4%	5.9	0.15
Largemouth Bass	17	23.9%	6.6 (1 - 14)	0.27
Yellow Perch	1	1.4%	7.3	0.16

Left: The summary of the 2010 survey for Mallard Pond. Mallard is primarily managed for 10-inch trout; heavily stocked in the spring and late fall (ice angling). Roughly 10,000 catchable trout are stocked annually. By design, no trout were identified in the survey but good numbers of crappie and small bass were present. Trout stocking at the park typically does not occur between May 15 - September 15 because of warm water temperatures.

#3. Pelican Pond - all fish were eliminated September, 2010. Rebuilding has begun.

A reclamation project completed in September, 2010 eliminated all fish in Pelican Pond (37 surface acres). More than 7,000 common carp (94% total fish killed) were eliminated. An aeration system funded in part by a Fishing is Fun grant has been installed to improve water quality and thousands of sport fish have since been stocked. Pelican Pond will be managed for crappie, channel catfish, and trophy bass. A small number of trout (1,000 annually) will also be stocked.

#4. Killdeer Pond 09/20/2010 Survey; 10 min. boat electrofishing.

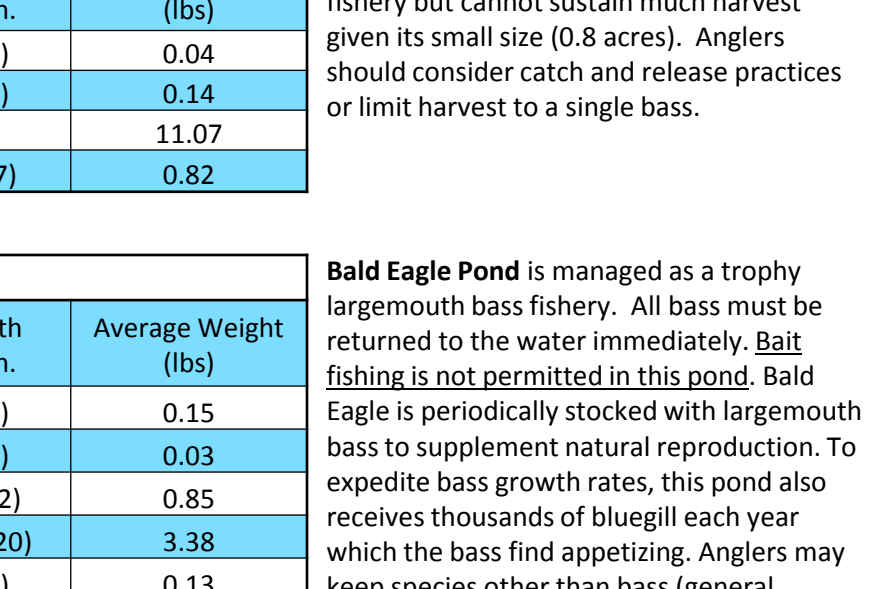
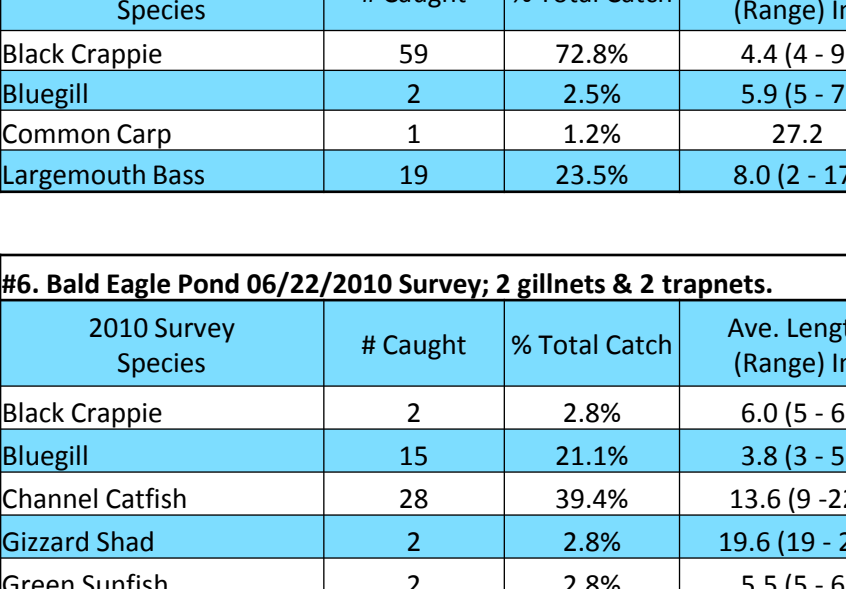
2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	59	72.8%	4.4 (4 - 9)	0.04
Bluegill	2	2.5%	5.9 (5 - 7)	0.14
Common Carp	1	1.2%	27.2	11.07
Largemouth Bass	19	23.5%	8.0 (2 - 17)	0.82

Killdeer Pond- No trout are stocked in Killdeer. This pond is managed as a bass fishery but cannot sustain much harvest given its small size (0.8 acres). Anglers should consider catch and release practices or limit harvest to a single bass.

#6. Bald Eagle Pond 06/22/2010 Survey; 2 gillnets & 2 trapnets.

2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Crappie	2	2.8%	6.0 (5 - 6)	0.15
Bluegill	15	21.1%	3.8 (3 - 5)	0.03
Channel Catfish	28	39.4%	13.6 (9 - 22)	0.85
Gizzard Shad	2	2.8%	19.6 (19 - 20)	3.38
Green Sunfish	2	2.8%	5.5 (5 - 6)	0.13
Largemouth Bass	15	21.1%	12.4 (7 - 23)	1.56
Yellow Perch	7	9.9%	7.8 (7 - 8)	0.2

Bald Eagle Pond is managed as a trophy largemouth bass fishery. All bass must be returned to the water immediately. Bait fishing is not permitted in this pond. Bald Eagle is periodically stocked with largemouth bass to supplement natural reproduction. To expedite bass growth rates, this pond also receives thousands of bluegill each year which the bass find appealing. Anglers may keep species other than bass (general regulations apply), provided such fish are caught using artificial flies or lures.



#7. Redtail Pond 09/20/2010 Survey; 1 gillnet & 10 min. electrofishing.

2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Bluegill	4	7.3%	4.6 (3 - 5)	0.09
Largemouth Bass	41	74.5%	4.8 (3 - 6)	0.07
Rainbow Trout	8	14.5%	12.9 (11 - 14)	0.80
Yellow Perch	2	3.6%	9.3 (9 - 10)	0.42

Red Tail Pond is managed for bass and bluegill. A small number of catfish have also been stocked in recent history. When available, Redtail Pond also receives a small number of "retired" 20-inch brood stock rainbow trout.

#8. Coot Pond 09/20/2010 Survey; 2 gillnets & 2 trapnets.

2010 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Bullhead	4	3.4%	10.8 (10 - 13)	0.80
Black Crappie	7	6.0%	5.6 (3 - 9)	0.11
Bluegill	31	26.5%	4.1 (3 - 6)	0.04
Common Carp	13	11.1%	17.3 (11 - 22)	2.60
Gizzard Shad	19	16.2%	9.9 (3 - 17)	0.58
Largemouth Bass	34	29.1%	8.0 (4 - 18)	0.50
Rainbow Trout	1	0.9%	9.3	0.27
Saugeye	1	0.9%	8.6	0.18
White Sucker	2	1.7%	13.6 (10 - 17)	1.22
Yellow Perch	5	4.3%	3.4 (3 - 5)	0.01

Coot Pond has quality bass and receives trout during the spring and fall. Saugeye and walleye were stocked for the first time in June, 2010 and during each subsequent year. Management will attempt to establish a saugeye/crappie fishery in the future with gizzard shad serving as the forage base. Coot Pond will be surveyed in 2013 to track the progress.

#9. Pintail Pond 06/14/2012 Survey; 1 gillnet & 1 trapnet.

2012 Survey Species	# Caught	% Total Catch	Ave. Length (Range) In.	Average Weight (lbs)
Black Bullhead	1	0.7%	7.6	0.21
Black Crappie	26	18.2%	8.7	0.31
Bluegill	1	0.7%	4.5 (4 - 6)	0.07
Common Carp	3	2.1%	18.3 (9 - 24)	3.44
Gizzard Shad	77	53.8%	5.7 (2 - 16)	0.24
Northern Pike	1	0.7%	24.1	3.37
Walleye	12	8.4%	8.3 (8 - 9)	0.16
White Sucker	20	14.0%	8.1 (7 - 8)	0.18
Yellow Perch	2	1.4%	6.0 (2 - 7)	0.12

Pintail Pond: Walleye and northern pike have been stocked in Pintail to consume overabundant carp, shad, and stunted bluegill. High pH and the lack of preferred water depths limits the potential of this fishery.

#10 Yellow Legs Pond - We surveyed only 6 fish total in the pond. This pond has limited potential for a quality fishery. In the future look for a small number of catfish to be stocked. No trout are stocked in this pond.

Based on survey results, specific management strategies for each of the ponds at St. Vrain State Park are now in place. To accommodate the various strategies do not move fish among the various ponds (illegal activity). Trout fishing will generally be limited to Sandpiper, Mallard, and Coot Ponds. The remaining ponds will focus on management for warmwater species.