This is a fishing forecast for the Omaha area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) during 2016 and 2017. Therefore, there may be other water bodies in the area that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included in this forecast (see map). The following information will help anglers decide on where the best fishing for a variety of species can be found based on survey results. Anglers seeking more information on area lakes such as locations, lake maps, regulations and stocking reports are encouraged to browse the Nebraska Game and Parks website at www.outdoornebraska.gov.

Bluegills

Similarly to last year, anglers targeting larger bluegills should head to Walnut Creek, Lawrence Youngman and Wanahoo. Beginners or people who just want to catch some bluegill should head to Louisville SRA and fish any of the sandpits. Louisville #2 will provide anglers the best chance at catching larger fish.

* 2016 Survey
Redear Sunfish

Redear sunfish have been stocked and sampled in a multitude of lakes in the Omaha area. Louisville 2 or Jenny Newman will be the place to head to for larger redears in 2018, in fact multiple fish over 10” were sampled during the spring of 2017. The redear fisheries at Prairie Queen and Walnut Creek continue to grow and anglers can expect good redear fishing for years to come.

Largemouth Bass

Anglers targeting bass should have little trouble catching them in 2018. High densities of 8-15” bass can be found at Jenny Newman, Louisville #1A and Prairie Queen. Anglers seeking larger fish should head to Walnut Creek, Louisville #3, Wanahoo, Wehrspann or Memphis. Anglers should not forget about Cunningham or the lakes at Two Rivers SRA for larger (>18”) bass.

* 2016 Survey
Channel Catfish

Channel catfish are popular throughout Nebraska and can be found in almost every reservoir and river in the metro area. **Zorinsky** will again offer some of the best channel catfishing for both eating and trophy sized fish. Additionally, anglers fishing **Lawrence Youngman, Walnut Creek** or **Cunningham** have the potential to catch some large channel catfish. **Louisville #2, Prairie Queen** and **Wehrspann** will also provide anglers a chance at some eating sized fish.

Crappie

Anglers targeting crappie in the Omaha metro area should look to **Wehrspann** for numbers and to **Walnut Creek** or **Wanahoo** for some larger fish. **Lawrence Youngman** also will provide a chance at some 10-12” crappies. **Cunningham**, although it wasn’t sampled in the last two years, should also provide good crappie fishing in 2018.

* 2016 Survey
Northern Pike

Lake Wanahoo will again provide a unique fishing opportunity to catch northern pike in eastern Nebraska. Multiple fish over 40” were sampled in the spring of 2017 along with a multitude of fish in the 35-40” range. The northern pike tagging study will continue in 2018 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV. Cunningham will also provide a chance at catching northern pike; however, the chances of catching more and larger fish are much better at Lake Wanahoo. Anglers are required to release all northern pike caught at both Cunningham and Lake Wanahoo.

Other Species

Walleye

The switch to 8” advanced fingerling stockings have been beneficial at a number of metro lakes. Lawrence Youngman had the highest catch rate in the metro with over half of those fish over 15”. Zorinsky, Walnut Creek and Wanahoo will also provide anglers a chance at some legal 15” walleyes. Cunningham saugeyes were also sampled in 2017 with approximately 7 saugeyes per gill net with 2 of those over 15”.

* 2016 Survey
Rainbow Trout

Although the Omaha metro doesn’t have cold-water streams that support trout, there is still plenty of opportunity in and around Omaha to catch them. Rainbow trout are routinely stocked in the spring at Two Rivers 5 while Standing Bear, Benson Lake, Hitchcock Lake, Towl Lake receive fall stockings and Lake Halleck and CenturyLink Lake (in Mahoney SP) receive spring and fall stockings. Anglers can check the stocking database on the Game and Parks website to see the exact date rainbow trout were stocked.