

# 2024 Omaha Area Fishing Forecast

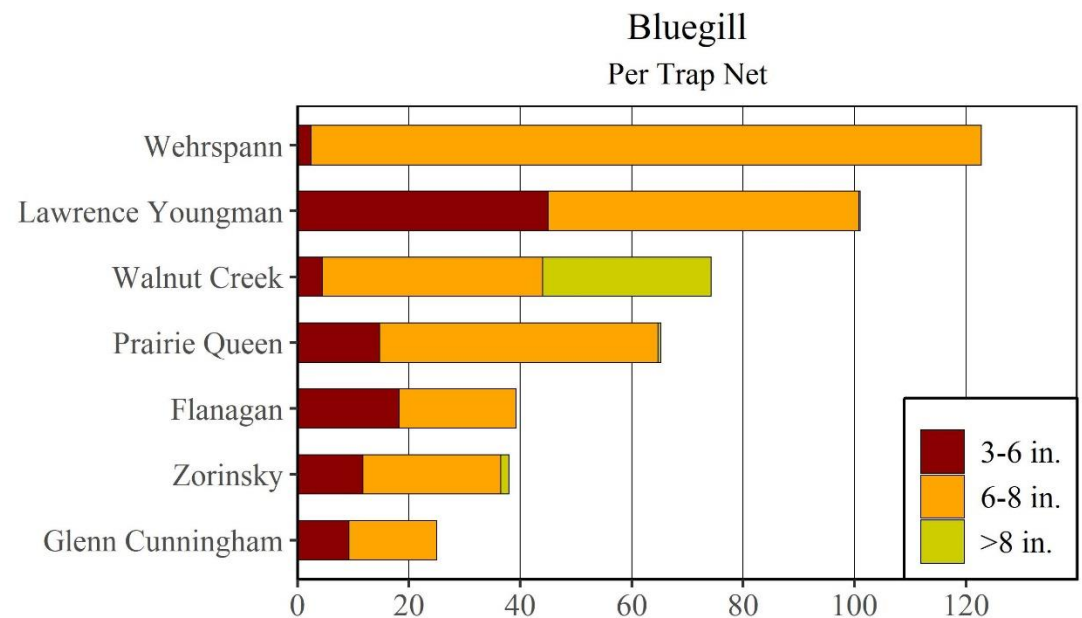


This is a fishing forecast for the Omaha area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) during 2023. Therefore, there may be other water bodies in the area that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included 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](http://www.outdoornebraska.gov).



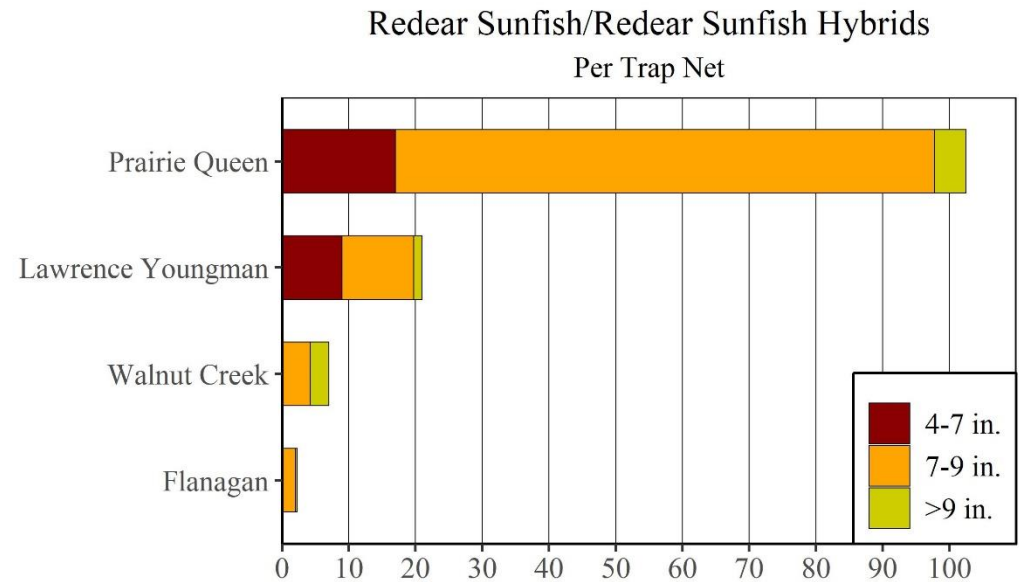
## Bluegill

Anglers in the Omaha area will have plenty of lakes to choose from for Bluegills in 2024. **Wehrspann, Lawrence Youngman, and Walnut Creek** had the highest catch rates of Bluegills. Lakes with good water quality and habitat such as **Walnut Creek, Lawrence Youngman, and Prairie Queen** will provide quality Bluegill fishing in 2024. **Flanagan** and **Glenn Cunningham** will also provide some good Bluegill fishing even though net survey results were low. Anglers are required to release all Bluegill **greater than 8 inches** in length caught at **Flanagan**. Anglers are required to **release all** Bluegill caught at **Jenny Newman**.



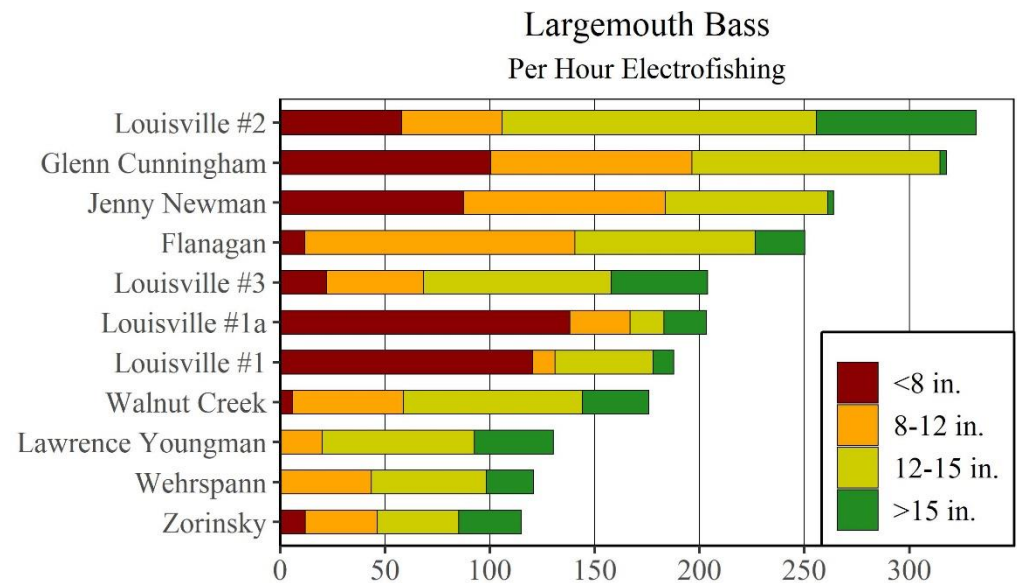
## Redear Sunfish/Redear Sunfish Hybrids

Redear Sunfish continue to thrive in our southeast Nebraska waters and 2024 will offer good fishing opportunities at multiple lakes. Higher abundances can be found at **Prairie Queen** and **Lawrence Youngman**, as well as Louisville State Park. The Redear Sunfish at **Prairie Queen**, **Jenny Newman** and **Walnut Creek** will provide the best chance at a master angler. Anglers are required to release all Redear Sunfish **greater than 8 inches** in length caught at **Flanagan**. Anglers are required to **release all** Redear Sunfish caught at **Jenny Newman**.



## Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass fishing opportunities will continue in the Omaha area in 2024. **Louisville #2**, **Glenn Cunningham**, **Jenny Newman**, and **Flanagan** had the highest catch rates with good proportions of the catch >12 inches in length. Newly renovated lakes, **Glenn Cunningham**, **Flanagan**, and any of the ponds at **Louisville State Recreation Area** should provide high catch rates of fish. **Lawrence Youngman**, **Wehrspann**, and **Zorinsky** should provide good opportunities for fish 15 inches and larger.

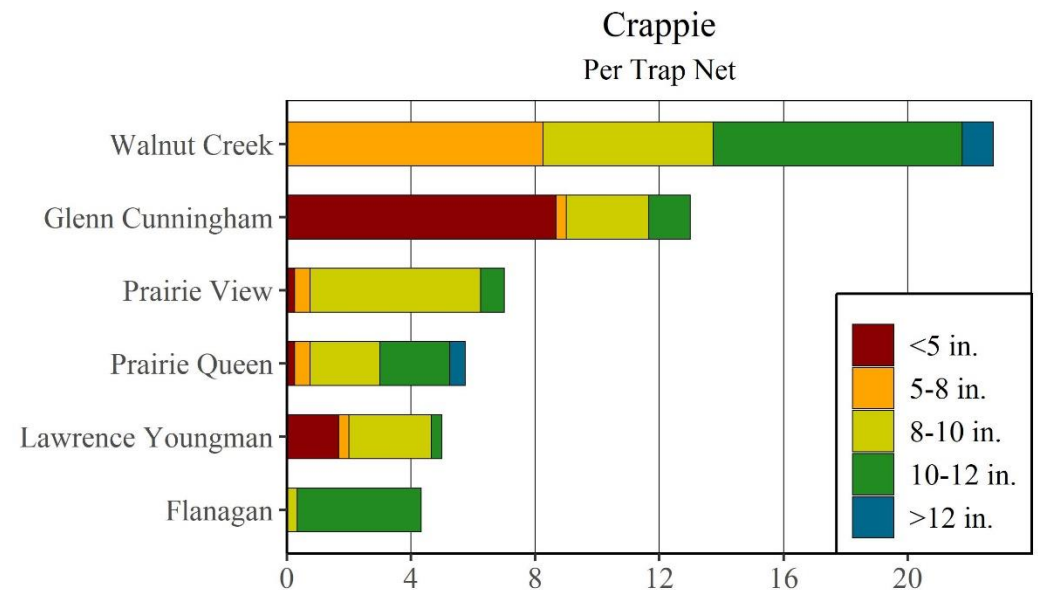
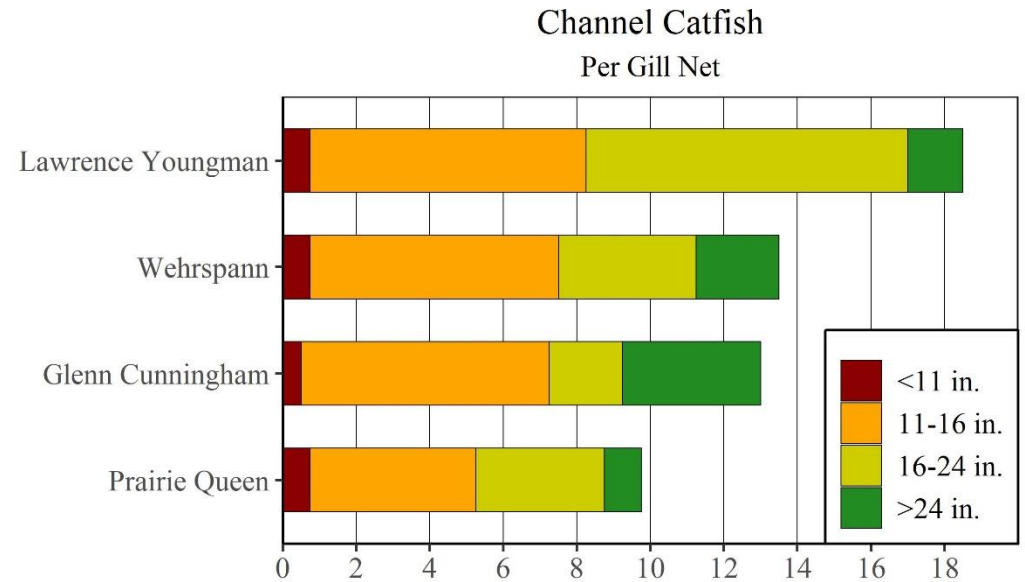


## Channel Catfish

Channel Catfish can be found in almost every reservoir and river in the metro area; however, **Lawrence Youngman**, **Walnut Creek**, and **Zorinsky** will be an angler's best bet at large Channel Catfish. Anglers can also find eater sized fish at all the lakes mentioned above as well as **Wehrspann**, **Glenn Cunningham**, and **Prairie Queen**. Anglers are required to **release all** Channel Catfish caught at **Two Rivers #4** and **Two Rivers #3**.

## Crappie

Anglers targeting crappie should have no trouble finding fish at **Walnut Creek**, **Glenn Cunningham**, **Zorinsky**, or **Wehrspann**. Anglers will also find plenty of crappie at **Prairie View**, **Prairie Queen**, and **Flanagan** in 2024 despite low survey results. Anglers are required to release all Crappie **greater than 10 inches** in length caught at **Flanagan**.

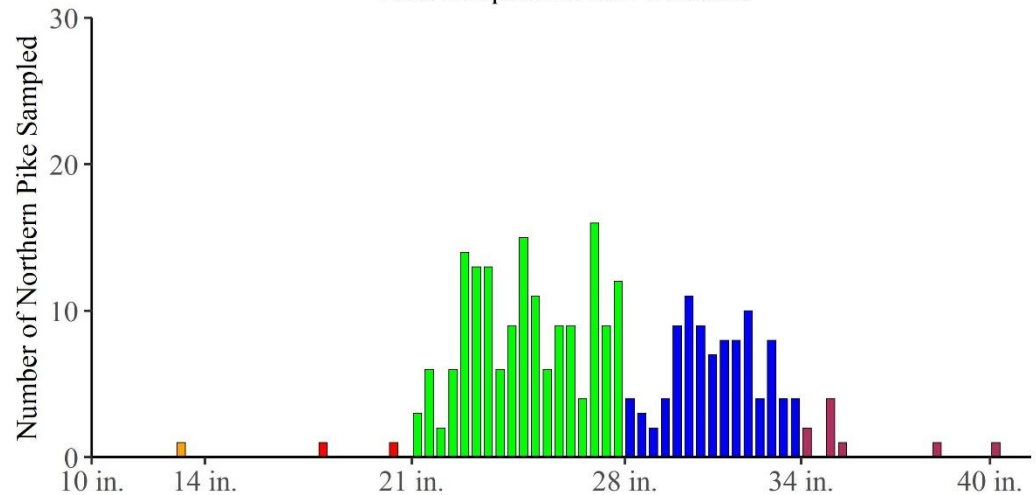


## Northern Pike

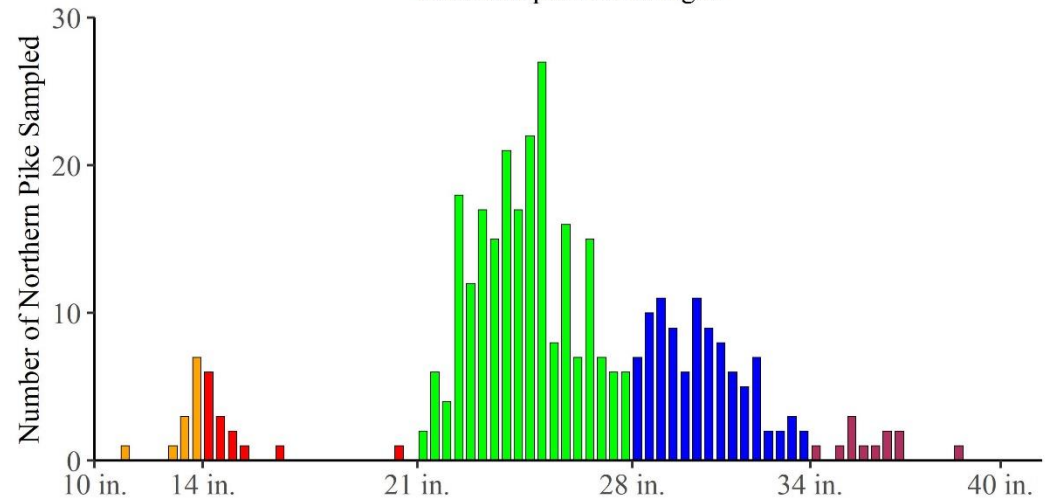
**Lake Wanahoo** will again provide a unique fishing opportunity to catch Northern Pike in eastern Nebraska. A multitude of fish in the 20-30 inch range were caught and tagged in the spring of 2023 as well as a few fish over 34 inches. The Northern Pike tagging study will continue in 2024 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to [NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV). Anglers are required to **release all Northern Pike** caught at **Lake Wanahoo**.

Northern Pike in **Flanagan** continued to flourish in 2023, creating another unique fishing opportunity in the Omaha area. Already, several fish were caught that were over 34 inches with lots of fish between 20 and 30 inches. The Northern Pike tagging study at **Flanagan** and will continue in 2024 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to [NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV). Anglers are required to **release all Northern Pike** caught at **Flanagan**.

Northern Pike  
Total Sampled at Lake Wanahoo

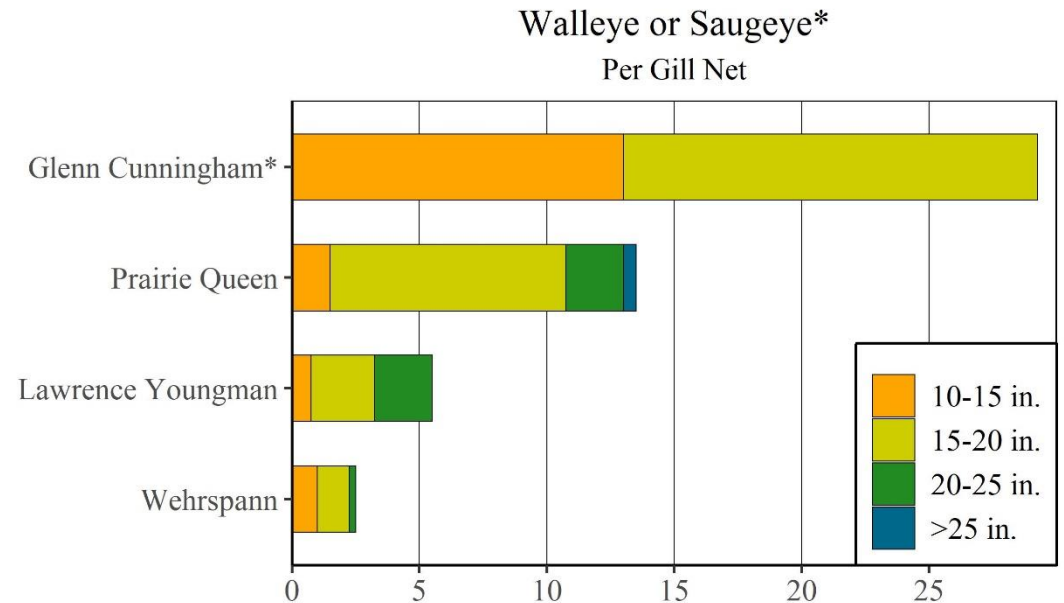


Northern Pike  
Total Sampled at Flanagan



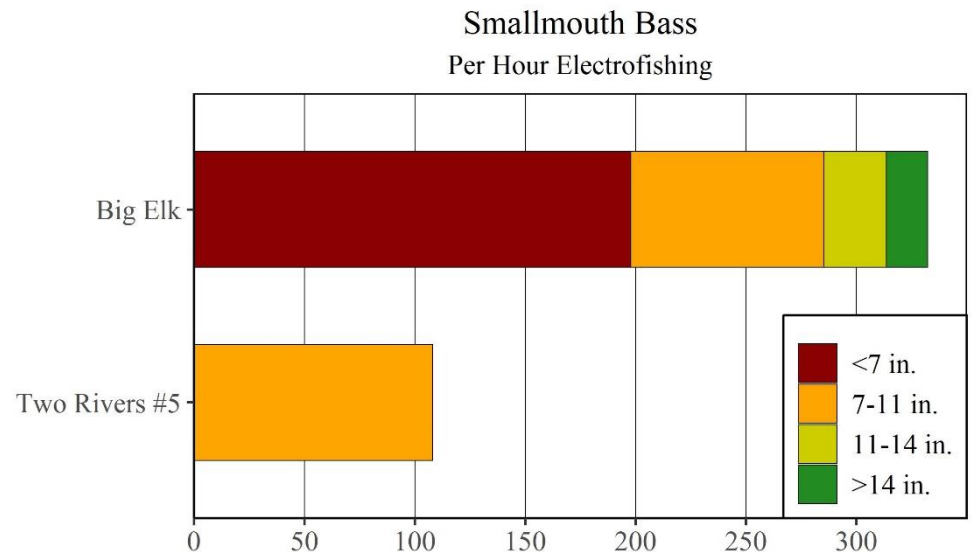
## Walleye/Saugeye

We are now going on the eighth year of our advanced Walleye/Saugeye stocking program and multiple reservoirs in the metro have benefitted. **Prairie Queen, Lawrence Youngman, Zorinsky, Walnut Creek, and Wehrspann** will all provide anglers a chance at some legal 15 inch walleye in 2024. Anglers seeking larger Walleye should head to **Lawrence Youngman, Prairie Queen, or Walnut Creek**. Saugeye were stocked into **Glenn Cunningham** starting in 2021 and will provide anglers with a chance at some legal 15 inch fish in 2024.



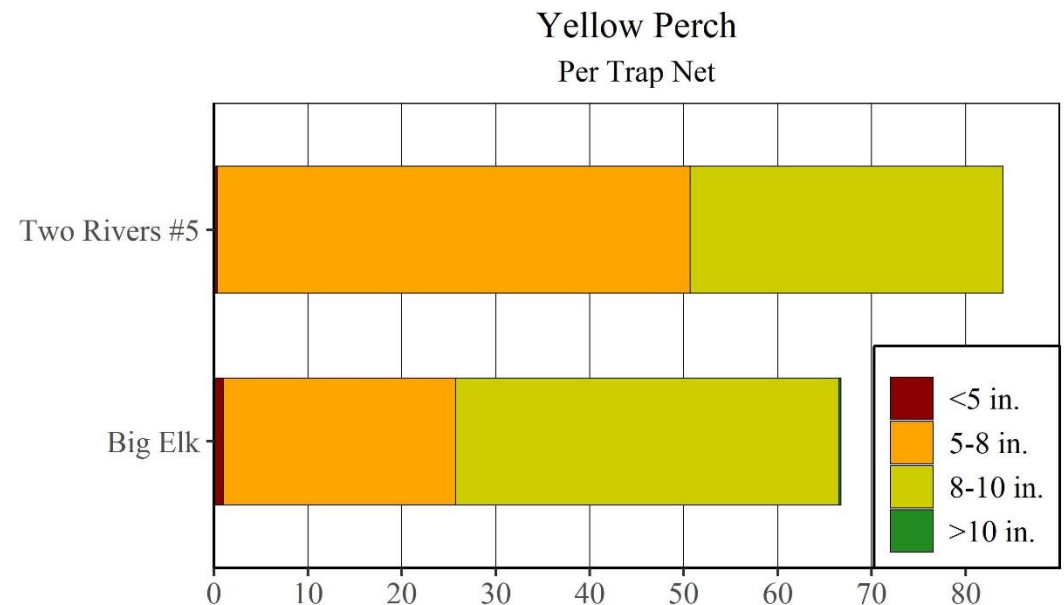
## Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth Bass were stocked in **Big Elk** and **Portal** in 2021 to create another unique fishing opportunity in the Omaha metro area. It is imperative to keep Largemouth Bass out of **Big Elk** and **Portal** to avoid competition between Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. Smallmouth were stocked into **Two Rivers #5** in Two Rivers State Park after the renovation in 2021. **Big Elk** will provide anglers with opportunities to catch fish >11 inches in 2024. Anglers are allowed to keep **two Smallmouth Bass less than 12 inches** in length from **Big Elk** and **Portal**. Anglers are allowed to keep **five Smallmouth Bass greater than 15 inches with only one fish being over 21 inches** from **Two Rivers #5**.



## Yellow Perch

Yellow Perch were stocked in **Big Elk** and **Portal** in 2021 to create another unique fishing opportunity in the Omaha metro area. It is imperative to keep Bluegill and Crappie out of **Big Elk** and **Portal** to avoid competition between Yellow Perch and other panfish. Yellow Perch were also stocked in **Two Rivers #5** in Two Rivers State Park after the renovation in 2021. **Big Elk**, and **Two Rivers #5** will provide opportunities to catch Yellow Perch >8 inches in length. Anglers seeking larger Yellow Perch should fish at **Big Elk**. Anglers are allowed to keep **5 perch per day of any length** at **Big Elk** and **Portal**. Anglers are allowed to **keep 15 Yellow Perch per day of any length** from **Two Rivers #5**.



## Other Species

### 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 **Louisville #1a**, **Benson Lake**, **Hitchcock Lake**, and **Towl Lake** receive fall stockings. **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.



