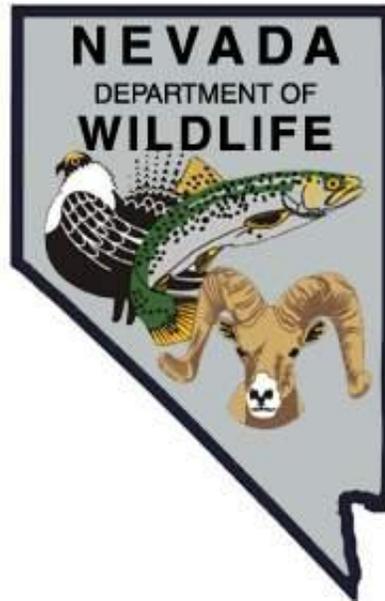


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS  
F-20-48  
2012

URBAN FISHERIES  
WESTERN REGION



**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION  
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**

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# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

**State:** *Nevada*  
**Project Title:** *Statewide Fisheries Program*  
**Job Title:** *Western Region Urban Fisheries*  
**Period Covered:** *January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012*

## SUMMARY

### General Management Objective

Western Region Urban Fisheries performed well in 2012 and continued to provide easy-to-access fisheries for local anglers. Management of these fisheries is typically dependent on annual stocking programs that primarily encourage use in the spring and fall when water temperatures are favorable for trout stocking and angling.

The creation and development of Crystal Peak Park Pond was completed and the water level was brought to capacity. Stocking of brown trout will commence in spring of 2013.

Construction of Mitch Park Pond in the Gardnerville Ranchos was completed during the fall 2011. Temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity were all within tolerance ranges of fish and it was planted during spring 2012.

## BACKGROUND

As the State of Nevada grows, its population continues to become increasingly urbanized. Urban sprawl is making it more difficult for people to find fishing opportunities near town. In addition, changing family dynamics is resulting in fewer children being exposed to the sport of fishing. Nevada's urban ponds are an invaluable means of providing angling opportunities to people living in an urban setting. Nevada currently has 18 urban fisheries throughout the State, which accounts for nearly 87,000 angler days per year.

Urban pond fisheries management includes meeting angler-approved goals, recruiting anglers, providing facilities for free fishing day events and fishing clinics, providing stocking programs that support diverse sport fisheries (coldwater and warmwater), and providing effective and timely outreach to angler regarding fishing opportunities. The Urban Pond Fisheries Management Concept specifies angler success rates of 0.25 to 0.75 fish per hour and 1.0 to 2.0 fish per angler day.

## OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES

Urban Ponds Objective: Administer an urban fisheries program, which assesses fisheries resources or potentially new fisheries resources, manages habitat, manages

fish stocking to meet fishery objectives, develops or updates fishery management plans, provides information to anglers, and maintains contact with managing entities of individual fishing waters.

Approaches:

- Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.
- Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use.
- Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.
- Coordinate fisheries management activities with local city/town governments as necessary to maintain/enhance the fishery.
- Manage and/or develop new urban fisheries as opportunities arise.
- As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (Town of Gardnerville), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation).
- Provide input to the Gardnerville Ranchos General Improvement District on developing and managing a public fishing pond at Mitch Park. The Department will stock 500 largemouth bass, 1,000 bluegill, and 1,000 redear sunfish. The pond will use well water and be a closed system with no outlet. Largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, brown and rainbow trout are sport fish that occur in nearby East Carson River and sloughs.
- Rock (Stoney) Lake (Forest Service property in Washoe County) will receive a new release of 500 brook trout taken from Franktown Creek. Rock Lake drains into Ophir Creek, which already has a reproducing population of brook trout. Water then flows into Washoe Lake, a shallow, warmwater playa-lake too warm to support trout.
- Establish a new fishery in Tracy Pond (near Reno) by stocking (new release) 100 largemouth bass. A self-sustaining population of largemouth bass exists in the Lower Truckee River adjacent to the pond. The pond was originally a gravel quarry that became infiltrated with water from the Truckee River.

## PROCEDURES

### All Western Region Urban Ponds

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** Unscheduled, visits were made to various urban fisheries throughout the year for the purpose of collecting creel survey data. Information on angler harvest, effort, and origin were recorded on standard forms. Harvested fish were measured to fork length in millimeters. Opportunistic angler surveys occurred primarily during other scheduled work at or nearby the ponds. Angler contacts were made at various ponds during 25 days in 2012.

Angler use and success at urban fisheries were also assessed through the Mail-in Angler Questionnaire Survey conducted in 2011. Angler questionnaire data was derived from a survey mailed to about 10% of license purchasers.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Annual stocking programs and schedules were provided to the Fisheries Division and hatchery personnel in the spring of 2012. Prior to scheduled trout stocking and during the course of other duties, trips were made to Western Region urban fisheries to visually ascertain water levels and measure water temperatures. As water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use fluctuated, stocking programs were altered as needed. Additionally, consultation was maintained with the Conservation Education Division in an effort to address stocking needs as they pertain to free fishing day, angler education activities, and fishing clinics.

**Coordinate fisheries management activities with local city/town governments as necessary to maintain/enhance the fishery.** Assistance and coordination related to fisheries management was accomplished with governmental agencies and local municipalities throughout the year.

**Manage and/or develop new urban fisheries as opportunities arise.** Biologists remained vigilant for new opportunities pertaining to urban pond development and improvement.

**As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (Town of Gardnerville), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation).** Channel catfish were purchased from approved sources from outside the agency and delivered to the ponds.

**Provide input to the Gardnerville Ranchos General Improvement District on developing and managing a public fishing pond at Mitch Park.** The Department will stock 500 largemouth bass, 1,000 bluegill, and 1,000 redear sunfish. The pond will use well water and be a closed system with no outlet. Largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, brown and rainbow trout are sport fish that occur in nearby East Carson River and sloughs. Largemouth bass and bluegill were stocked, but no redear sunfish were available during 2012.

**Rock (Stoney) Lake (Forest Service property in Washoe County) will receive a new release of 500 brook trout taken from Franktown Creek.** Rock Lake drains into Ophir Creek, which already has a reproducing population of brook trout. Water then flows into Washoe Lake, a shallow, warmwater playa-lake too warm to support trout. Time constraints associated with other projects prevented completion of this project. This project is scheduled for the 2013 calendar year.

**Establish a new fishery in Tracy Pond (near Reno) by stocking (new release) 100 largemouth bass. A self-sustaining population of largemouth bass exists in the Lower Truckee River adjacent to the pond. The pond was originally a gravel quarry that became infiltrated with water from the Truckee River. Communication was maintained with the landowner at Tracy Pond; however, public access was not permitted and fish introduction was postponed until public access is assured.**

## **FINDINGS**

### Baily Fishing Pond (Carson City Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 597 anglers and 7,429 angler days in 2011. Total catch was 17,999 fish and success rate was 2.42 fish per angler day. In 2010, the mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 484 anglers who fished for 2,226 days to catch 6,816 fish and the success rate was 3.06 fish per angler day. Baily Fishing Pond continued to be very popular among anglers during 2012.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Water conditions for Baily Fishing Pond were suitable for trout stocking throughout the year. Stocking occurred monthly between March and October. Coordination occurred between Conservation Education and the hatchery for providing fish during clinics and events.

### Davis Creek Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 955 anglers and 3,143 angler use days in 2011, which was considerably lower than the 1,591 anglers and 7,413 angler days estimated in 2010. The total catch for 2011 was 3,711 fish and the success rate was 1.18 fish per angler day.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made once at Davis Creek Park Pond in 2012. Two anglers fished for a total of one hour and caught no fish. Anglers were from Washoe County.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** The pond was free of ice and filled with water in early spring. Habitat and water temperatures were suitable for trout stocking throughout the spring; however, it was completely desiccated by early summer. From March 14 through June 5, 3,670 Eagle Lake-strain rainbow trout were stocked on

seven separate occasions.

Idlewild Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 196 anglers and 632 angler use days at Idlewild Pond in 2011, which was substantially higher than the 36 anglers and 182 angler days estimated in 2010. An estimated 3,624 fish were caught resulting in 5.73 fish per angler day in 2011.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made once at Idlewild Pond in 2012. Four Washoe County anglers fished for 8 hrs and caught no fish.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Water supply and habitat conditions were inadequate for consistent trout stocking. As a result, the pond was stocked only once in 2012. A total of 2,500 triploid rainbow trout were stocked in June to support a Conservation Education Division fishing event.

Lampe Park Pond (Douglas Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated no angler use. However, anglers were observed when stocking as well as during the annual fishing derby.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** The water quality and habitat at Lampe Park Pond was adequate for trout stocking during June.

Liberty Pond (Churchill Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 197 anglers in 2011, which was down from 320 during 2010. Total catch was 2,346 fish, which again was down from 3,157 in 2010. The success rate in 2011 was 3.55 fish per angler day and was nearly double that reported during 2010.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Water quality and habitat remained adequate for trout stocking during the spring. There was a fish die off during June, observing approximately 500 fish including bluegill, catfish, brown trout, and rainbow

trout. Several water quality samples were collected and analyzed by Sierra Environmental Monitoring. Results were high in constituents consistent with agriculture fertilizers most likely coming from the supply ditch. Fall stocking occurred as water temperature declined. The water level at Liberty Pond generally drops during winter and refills once the irrigation season begins in Lahontan Valley by April 1.

#### Marilyn's Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 1,390 anglers and 5,096 angler use days at Marilyn's Pond in 2011, which is on par with 1,712 anglers and 8,096 angler days in 2010. An estimated 10,688 fish were caught in 2011 resulting in 2.10 fish per angler day.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made during five days in 2012. On these occasions, 29 anglers fished for 56.5 hrs and caught 82 fish consisting of 80 rainbow trout and 2 brown trout. Of the fish caught, 17 were harvested. Catch rates were 2.83 fish per angler and 1.45 fish per hour. Average fork length of the 17 rainbow trout was 11.00 in (279.4 mm) and a range of 7.87 to 13.98 in (200 - 355 mm). Observed use showed 86% Washoe County anglers and 14% from other counties in Nevada.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** The water level at Marilyn's Pond remained at capacity throughout the year. Due to the proximity and presence of a constant, cool source of inflow from Galena Creek, no water quality issues were encountered in 2012. From March 18 through October 19, a total of 8,206 Eagle Lake strain and Jumper-strain rainbow trout were stocked on 13 occasions.

#### Martin Slough (Douglas Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated 59 anglers fished in 2011. The total catch was 923 fish and the success rate was 2.33 fish per angler day. In 2010, 27 fished and caught 313 fish for a success rate of 0.97 fish per angler day. Use and catch were up from 2010.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** The water level at Martin Slough was influenced by water flow coming from the Carson River. The pond was stocked in the spring since warm temperatures and low water levels during the summer were not considered suitable for trout and catfish stocking.

### Mountain View Park Pond (Lyon Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated 48 anglers fished in 2011, catching 317 fish for a success rate was 0.97 fish per angler day. There were 21 anglers fishing in 2010, catching 294 fish for a success rate was 3.63 fish per angler day. Number of anglers and total catch was up from 2010, however, the catch rates was lower.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** The warm water temperatures at Mountain View Park Pond limited trout stocking to only spring and early summer.

### Paradise Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 55 anglers and 4,605 angler use days in 2011, which was considerably different than the 213 anglers and 804 angler days estimated in 2010. An estimated 7,636 fish were caught resulting in 1.66 fish per angler day in 2011.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made on two days at Paradise Pond in 2012. On these occasions, 3 anglers fished for 4.5 hrs and caught no fish. Angler use showed 67% Washoe County anglers and 33% nonresidents.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Water conditions at Paradise Pond were conducive for trout stocking only in early-spring and again in late-fall of 2012. A total of 609 Eagle Lake-strain rainbow trout were stocked in March and April while another 963 were stocked in November. In addition, 440 channel catfish were stocked in June.

### Rancho San Rafael Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 3 anglers with 5 angler use days at Rancho San Rafael Pond in 2011. This was nearly identical to 2010 with 8 anglers fishing for 8 angler days.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Habitat and water conditions were conducive to trout stocking of 385 Eagle Lake-strain rainbow trout in April.

### Sparks Marina Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 1,748 anglers and 9,108 angler use days at Sparks Marina Park Pond in 2011, which was substantially lower than 2,456 anglers and 16,423 angler days estimated in 2010. An estimated 8,673 fish were caught resulting in 0.95 fish per angler day in 2011.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made on five days in 2012. On these days, 65 anglers fished for 131.5 hrs to catch 39 fish consisting of 33 rainbow trout, 4 carp, 1 smallmouth bass, and 1 channel catfish. Of these, 16 rainbow trout and the remaining 23 fish were released. Catch rates were 0.60 fish per angler and 0.30 fish per hour. Average fork length of the rainbow trout was 12.69 in (322.4 mm) and they ranged from 9.45 to 15.55 in (240 - 395 mm). The smallmouth bass caught was 7.36 in (187 mm). Angler use showed 98% were Washoe County anglers and 2% were nonresidents.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Sparks Marina Park Pond remained at full capacity throughout 2012. Surface water temperatures and water quality were conducive for trout stocking throughout the year. From March through November, 24,553 Eagle Lake strain and Jumper-strain rainbow trout were stocked on 8 occasions. In addition, 3,001 Sheep Creek-strain brown trout were stocked in March and April.

### Virginia Lake (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 137 anglers and 315 angler use days at Virginia Lake in 2011, which is similar to the 273 anglers and 485 angler days estimated in 2010. An estimated 61 fish were caught resulting in 0.19 fish per angler day.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made on two days in 2012. A total of 5 anglers fished for 5 hrs and caught no fish. Angler use showed 80% were Washoe County anglers and 20% nonresidents.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** Virginia Lake remained at full capacity throughout the year. From October 12 through November 29, a total of 3,604 Eagle Lake strain and Jumper-strain rainbow trout were stocked on 3 occasions.

### Wilson Common Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

**Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.** The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 504 anglers and 2,574 angler use days at Wilson Common Park Pond in 2011, which was on par with the 802 anglers and 5,870 angler days estimated in 2010. An estimated 5,846 fish were caught resulting in 2.27 fish per angler day.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made once in 2012. There were 2 anglers just beginning to fish so no data was collected.

**Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics.** The pond remained at or near capacity throughout 2012. A total of 4,002 Eagle Lake strain and Jumper-strain rainbow trout were stocked on 8 occasions from March through November.

### Crystal Peak Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

Issues related to bottom leakage in Crystal Peak Park Pond were resolved in 2012. Washoe County, NDOW, and other project partners installed a plastic lining along the bottom, which stopped the leak. Water filled the pond in late 2012 and brown trout will be stocked in early spring of 2013. This will be a boon to anglers and will undoubtedly diversify the portfolio of Washoe County urban fisheries. Crystal Peak Park Pond is anticipated to provide numerous opportunities for the Conservation Education Division's angling events as well.

### All Western Region Urban Ponds

**Evaluate annual stocking recommendations based on water levels, habitat conditions and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division fishing clinics. When appropriate, enhance, and/or augment existing warmwater fish populations.** Annual stocking programs were evaluated and recommendations were made in early spring. Table 1 outlines urban pond stocking during 2012.

**Coordinate fisheries management activities with local city/town governments as necessary to maintain/enhance the fishery.** No major developments in fisheries management were required and, thus, limited coordination with management entities was required to maintain and enhance urban fisheries in the Western Region.

**Manage and/or develop new urban fisheries as opportunities arise.** NDOW biologists continued to assist with the development of two new urban ponds in the Western Region as described below.

Table 1. 2012 Urban Pond Stocking Summary

Nevada Department of Wildlife 2012 Urban Ponds Stocking Summary				
County	Water	Species	Number Stocked	Pounds Stocked
Carson City	Bailey Pond	Rainbow Trout	6,463	3,067
	Bailey Pond	Brown Trout	500	223
Churchill	Liberty Pond	Rainbow Trout	8,072	3,104
	Liberty Pond	Brown Trout	1,000	463
Douglas	Lampe Park Pond	Rainbow Trout	4,545	2,879
	Mitch Park Pond	Rainbow Trout	5,495	2,098
	Mitch Park Pond	Brown Trout	2,780	699
	Mitch Park Pond	Largemouth Bass	386	129
	Mitch Park Pond	Bluegill Sunfish	150	15
	Mitch Park Pond	Channel Catfish	513	114
Lyon	Mountain View Park Pond	Rainbow Trout	1,223	595
	Davis Creek Park Pond	Rainbow Trout	3,670	1,529
Washoe	Idlewild Park Pond	Rainbow Trout	2,500	1,073
	Marilyn's Pond	Rainbow Trout	8,206	3,514
	Paradise Pond	Rainbow Trout	2,330	909
	Paradise Pond	Channel Catfish	440	100
	Rancho San Rafael Pond	Rainbow Trout	385	175
	Sparks Marina Park	Rainbow Trout	24,553	10,453
	Sparks Marina Park	Brown Trout	3,001	1,237
	Virginia Lake	Rainbow Trout	3,604	1,235
Wilson Common Park Pond	Rainbow Trout	4,002	1,564	

As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (Town of Gardnerville), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation). There were 440 and 513 channel catfish stocked into Paradise Ponds and Mitch Park Pond, respectively, in June. Due to unavailability of channel catfish from the vendor, no other channel catfish were stocked in 2012. Channel catfish stocking is scheduled to resume in 2013.

Provide input to the Gardnerville Ranchos General Improvement District on developing and managing a public fishing pond at Mitch Park. The Department will stock (new release) 500 largemouth bass, 1,000 bluegill, and 1,000 redear sunfish. Largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, brown and rainbow trout are sport fish that occur in nearby East Carson River and sloughs. Pond construction was completed during the fall 2011 and trout stocking began during early 2012. Warmwater stocking occurred during warmer summer months.

Establish a new fishery in Tracy Pond (near Reno) by stocking (new release) 100 largemouth bass. A self-sustaining population of largemouth bass exists in the Lower Truckee River adjacent to the pond. The pond was originally a gravel quarry that became infiltrated with water from the Truckee River. Public access is not permitted at this time and the largemouth bass introduction is postponed until public access is assured. A gill net survey is scheduled for 2013 to determine

species present. Coordination with the landowner will continue in 2013 to discuss access issues related to establishing a public fishery.

## **MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

### Baily Fishing Pond

The completion of Baily Fishing Pond during 2010 was well received by residents of Carson City. Angler catch rates and fish per angler day remained high throughout 2012 and stocking occurred each month of the fishing season, March through October. Per an agreement with downstream water users, no warmwater species will be stocked into Baily Fishing Pond.

### Davis Creek Park Pond

Angler success at Davis Creek Park Pond exceeds guidelines set in the Coldwater-Urban Fishery Management Concept. It is managed as a put-and-take fishery since water conditions typically exceed what trout can tolerate in both winter (anchor ice) and summer (temperatures above 80°F). Although the pond provides limited angling opportunity during the summer and winter, a considerable amount of use is realized in the spring.

### Idlewild Pond

Due to increased sedimentation and siltation in recent years, Idlewild Pond complex is characterized by shallow depths resulting in increased summertime water temperatures. Additionally, abundant waterfowl produce a heavy nutrient load. The ponds provide limited fish habitat and do not warrant year round trout stocking. The ponds do provide a good setting for fishing activities and clinics conducted by the Conservation Education Division since stocking can be timed prior to events assuring high success.

NDOW has proposed a dredging project for the Idlewild Pond complex to the City of Reno, which is currently in the preliminary planning stage.

### Lampe Park Pond

No data was collected from the mail-in, angler questionnaire survey for 2010 and 2011. Observations confirmed the pond received little use; however, anglers were observed fishing during events in 2011. Water temperature during the summer exceeded the trout tolerance level and fishing was only optimal during the spring and early summer.

### Liberty Pond

Liberty Pond remained very popular among anglers living in Fallon. Angler use was high during spring, summer, and fall. Consistent fishing activity begins in early February and continues until October. The water level is controlled through an irrigation canal as well as a small supplemental well and the water level decrease throughout the winter. The irrigation season typically begins on April 1 and the pond level is quickly brought to capacity and is kept full throughout the summer. Occasional stocking of channel catfish occurs during the summer, which provides additional angling opportunity when trout stocking is not recommended due to warm water temperatures. The pond met the goals of an urban fishery in 2011.

### Martin Slough

Martin Slough met the management objectives of an urban fishery in 2011 based on mail-in questionnaire data. Water temperature during the summer exceeded what trout can tolerate and fishing was only optimal during spring and early summer.

### Marilyn's Pond

Marilyn's Pond continued to grow in popularity among local anglers. On average, angler use has steadily increased since 2003 when the pond first opened to fishing. The angler questionnaire data suggests the fishery is exceeding the guidelines of the Urban Fishery Management Concept. Due to its constant source of cool, oxygenated water, which allows for trout stocking throughout the warmer summer months, the pond provides angling opportunities when other urban ponds typically can not.

### Mountain View Park Pond

Mountain View Park Pond is the only urban pond in Lyon County and continues to be popular among locals living in Yerington. Based on angler catch rates, the pond is meeting the management objective of an urban fishery. The annual kids fishing derby had intermittent success and the Yerington Lyons Club (derby sponsor) moved the derby to Mason Valley Hatchery out ponds in 2010, which was expected to reduce fishing pressure on Mountain View Park Pond. However, fishing pressure doubled, possibly in response to renewed interest in fishing smaller ponds.

### Paradise Ponds

Between 2002 and 2008, the level of angler use at Paradise Ponds declined dramatically. It was assumed the development of other urban fisheries such as Sparks Marina Park Pond and Marilyn's Pond was the cause. The catch rate in 2011 remained well below those experienced in the past, but is still consistent and satisfies the guidelines of the Urban Fishery Management Concept. Anglers fishing Paradise Ponds have expressed positive interest for continued channel catfish stocking.

### Rancho San Rafael Pond

Due to its shallow nature, increased summertime temperatures, and aquatic vegetation, Rancho San Rafael Park Pond offers limited opportunity to anglers. Nevertheless, fish stocked in the spring provide an additional recreational option in an already diverse array of activities in which to participate.

### Sparks Marina Park Pond

Angler use and success at Sparks Marina Park are consistent with Coldwater and Warmwater Fishery Management concepts. Most anglers are successful catching stocked rainbow trout; however, past fish population surveys revealed a hearty population of black bass, channel catfish, and trophy-sized brown trout. Many anglers are unaware of this diverse community of sport fish and do not employ tactics to successfully capture warmwater fishes or large piscivorous brown trout. In cooperation with the City of Sparks, the Sparks Rotary Club, and other local sponsors, Sparks Marina provides an excellent backdrop for a Conservation Education Division event on Free Fishing Day that is the largest in the state.

### Virginia Lake

Virginia Lake continues to support a population of cormorants due to nesting habitat occurring on the island. Due to a variety of political components, the island has not been removed. In 2012, discussions were renewed with the City of Reno and the Reno Airport Authority in an effort to modify and/or remove the island. Trout will continue to be stocked when cormorants leave the area, generally in October to December. This management strategy allows trout to grow and acclimate over the winter providing limited angling opportunity in spring prior to cormorant nesting. Despite low stocking rates and angler use, the estimated catch rate is consistent with the guidelines of the Urban Fishery Management Concept.

### Wilson Commons

Wilson Commons provides a good urban fishery option for anglers who live in south Reno, Washoe Valley, and Carson City. The angler success rate is consistent with the Urban Fishery Management Concept. The stocking program appears to be consistent with angler use and no changes are proposed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Urban Ponds Objective: Administer an urban fisheries program, which assesses fisheries resources or potentially new fisheries resources, manages habitat, manages fish stocking to meet fishery objectives, develops or updates fishery management plans, provides information to anglers, and maintains contact with managing entities of individual fishing waters.

