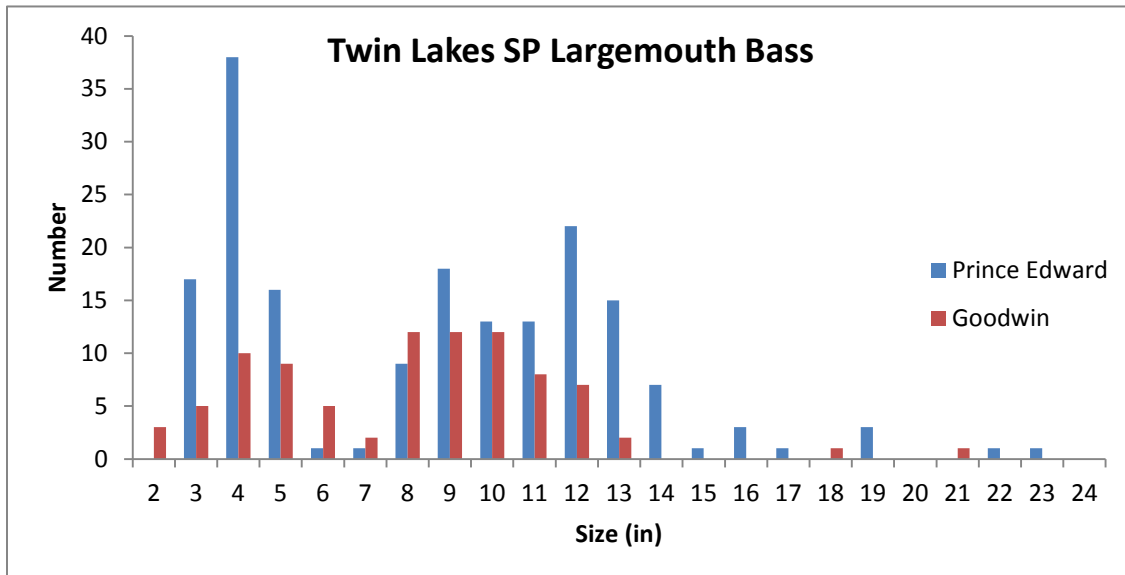


Twin Lakes State Park Report 2017



Situated on the 548-acre Twin Lakes State Park is a pair of small recreation lakes, Prince Edward and Goodwin Lakes. Prince Edward is the larger of the two lakes at 36 acres while its companion, Goodwin Lake, is 15 acres. The fisheries at both lakes consist of Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, crappie, Warmouth, Chain Pickerel, and Channel Catfish. The fisheries are dominated by bass, bluegill, and crappie. Yellow Perch can also be found in limited numbers at Prince Edward Lake. Channel catfish are stocked annually at 10 fish per acre at both lakes to maintain a fishery. Prince Edward Lake has a concrete boat ramp on the west side of the lake and good bank access is available around much of the lake. Goodwin has a gravel ramp on the east end of the upper section of the lake and ample bank fishing opportunities.

Our most recent survey in spring 2016 showed that Largemouth Bass in Prince Edward Lake have responded to efforts to improve size. While most bass were less than 14 inches, we did sample several fish over 16 inches and even had bass as large as 23 inches in the impoundment. The Goodwin Lake largemouth population was dominated by bass less than 12 inches but did have bass up to 20 inches in the electrofishing sample. Both lakes offer ample opportunity for high bass catch rates and even the chance to catch a trophy bass. If you are targeting Largemouth Bass, Prince Edward Lake would be the logical choice to target.



The sunfish populations in both impoundments are dominated by Bluegill which are on the small side. Ample small Bluegill provide excellent forage for the bass population and can keep a beginning angler busy baiting a hook. Bluegill up to seven inches were collected in the 2016 sample but most fish were five inches or less. Redear

Sunfish (aka shellcracker) are also present in both of the reservoirs. Very few redear were found in Prince Edward Lake but we did see a few very nice shellcracker. The largest measured over 10 inches! Goodwin has a more densely populated redear population but the largest only measured eight inches.

Black and White Crappie are also present in Prince Edward Lake and while density is low, crappie up to 12 inches were collected. This was much improved over previous samples and will hopefully continue to produce quality crappie for park visitors. Goodwin Lake has a very similar crappie fishery with few individuals but with quality fish in the population. Fishing for crappie is best around woody structure like downed trees or beaver lodges and early spring can be a great time to target this fishery.

While you may not land the next state record at Prince Edward or Goodwin, these lakes do offer excellent opportunities for anglers, especially beginning anglers. With aggressive biting bass in the lakes and available Bluegill and crappie, fishing success should be very high. This makes either of the Twin Lakes an excellent destination to teach kids and other beginning anglers how to fish. A cane pole, bobber and a can of worms can provide a lot of enjoyment on a summer afternoon.

Largemouth Bass at Prince Edward and Goodwin Lakes are managed under a 12-16 inch protective slot limit and a five fish per day creel limit. Channel Catfish in both lakes are protected under a 15-inch minimum length limit and eight fish per day creel limit. All other fish species are managed under statewide creel and length limits.

Twin Lakes State Park is an excellent destination for camping, hiking, swimming, and fishing. Enjoy the relaxed, rustic atmosphere it offers and take a child fishing while you're at it. Twin Lakes State Park is near Farmville, about an hour southwest of Richmond. To get there take U.S. 360 West of Burkeville to Route 613. Then go east on Route 629. Visit the website below for more information about park activities.

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/twin-lakes>