

# Fort Collins Natural Area Ponds

## Sterling Pond at North Shields Ponds Natural Area



**Species Present:** Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Black Bullhead, Yellow Perch, White Sucker, Fathead Minnow

**Annual Stocking:** None

**General Assessment:** This previously 14.2 acre gravel pit pond has recently been reduced by filling. It contains good self sustaining populations of bullheads, yellow perch, and good sized green sunfish which is somewhat unique for the area. The absence of largemouth bass sets this pond apart from many others in the area and gives anglers some alternate opportunities.

## North Shields Pond



**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Black Bullhead, Common Carp, White Sucker

**Annual Stocking:** Channel Catfish, Bluegill

**General Assessment:** This 2.8 acre gravel pit is very shallow over 60% of the pond to the west side. The water fluctuates in response to the water table and in flood years the pond has receded to less than 1 acre. There is a self sustaining largemouth bass population and a very abundant carp population due to a large amount of good spawning habitat. This pond is suited for catfish angling and as a

kid's bluegill pond as well as providing some good handicap access with a fishing dock.

## McMurry Natural Area Pond East



**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Common Carp, White Sucker, Yellow Perch

**Annual Stocking:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Channel Catfish

**General Assessment:** This is a 7 acre gravel pit pond with a good shoreline ratio and pond access due to a long isthmus protruding into the center of the pond. The pond harbors a good population of largemouth bass and bluegill and has a high amount of use. Stocking is done to offset the potential harvest.

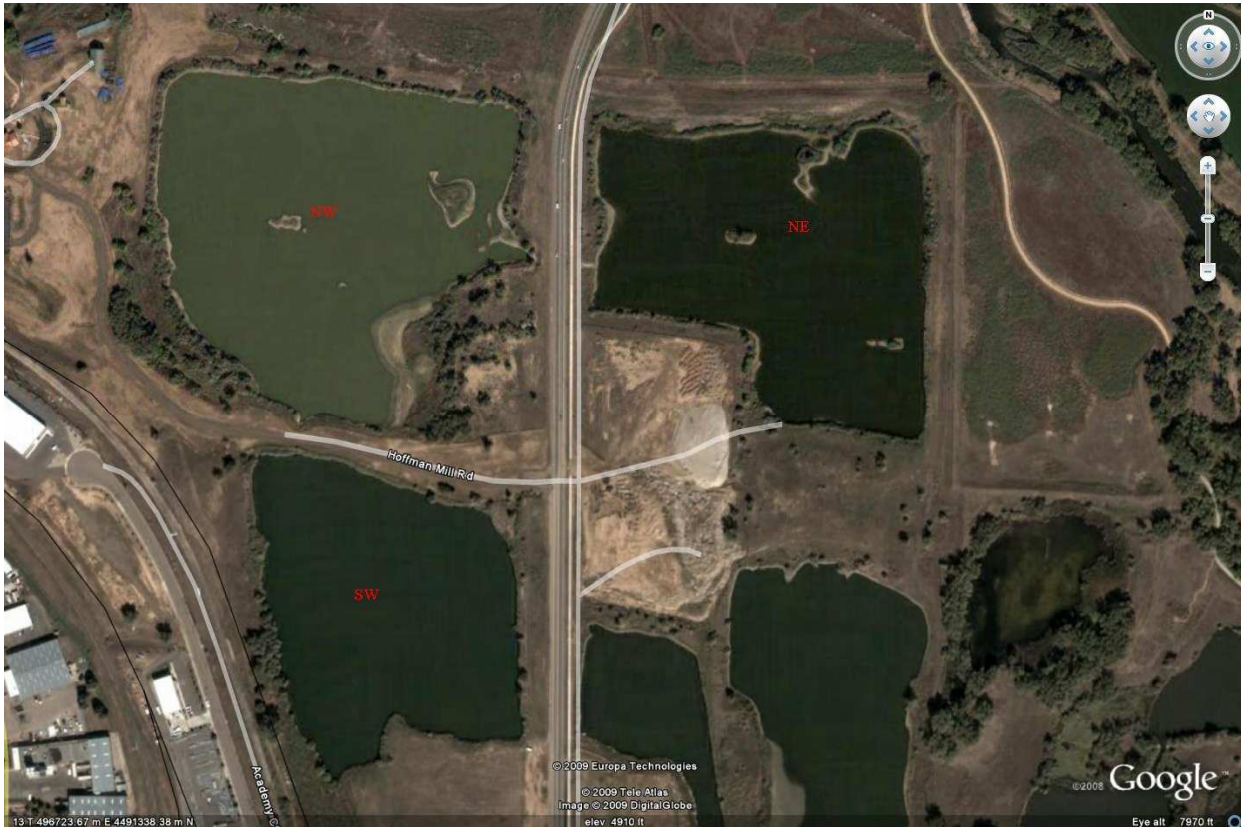
## McMurry Natural Area Pond- West

**Species Present:** Green Sunfish

**Annual Stocking:** None (potential to add fish with proposed dredging operation.)

**General Assessment:** This 5.9 acre pond has frequent winterkill (and likely summerkill) problems. Green sunfish have established from the river and are more tolerant of low oxygen levels.

## Kingfisher Point Natural Area Ponds



### Northwest Pond

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish, Emerald Shiners, Common Carp

**Annual Stocking:** None

**General Assessment:** This 16.5 acre gravel pit pond was stocked initially to augment sport fish populations already in place. Later surveys showed poor species composition. Additional sampling is necessary to get a full reassessment of the condition and potential of this pond. This pond may have water nutrient issues related to historic sugar-beet operations.

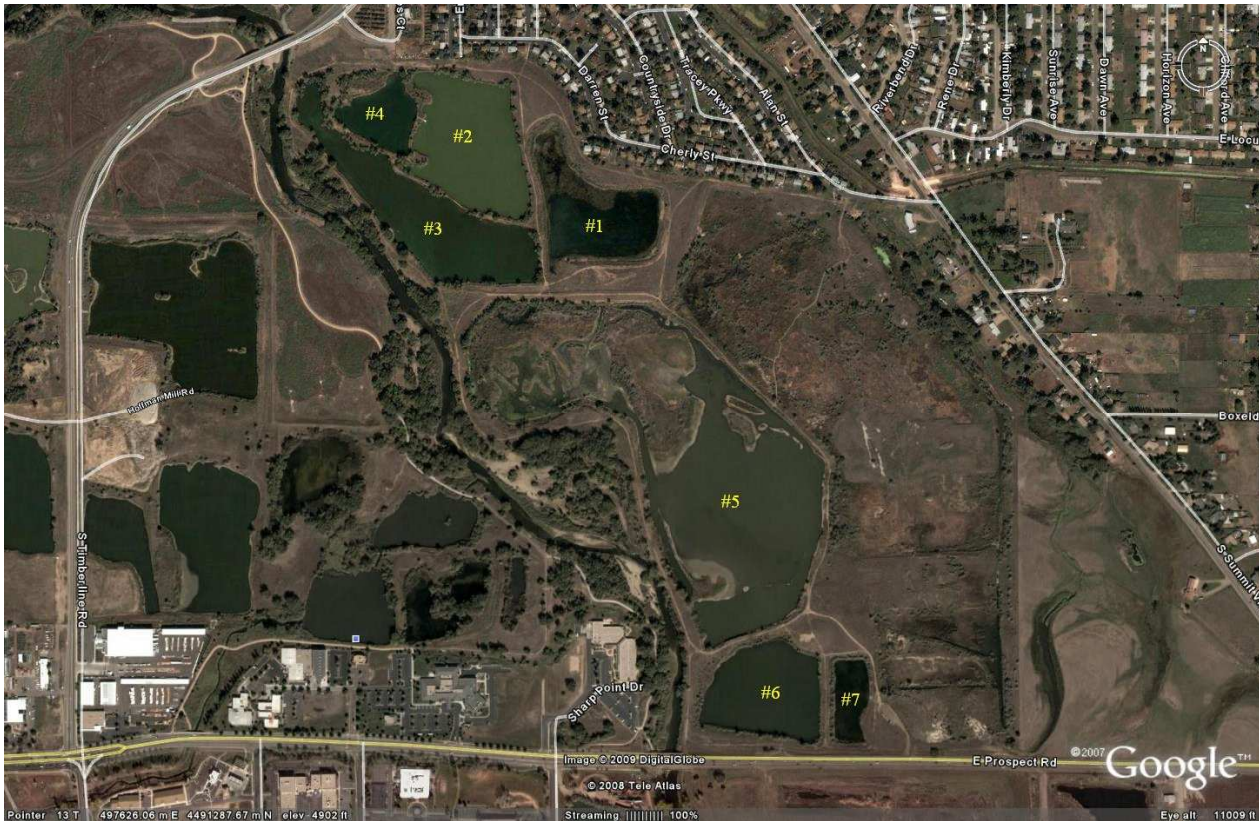
### Southwest Pond

**Species Present:** Black Crappie, Bluegill, Bullhead (or none after summer kill)

**Annual Stocking:** None (proposed Crappie, Bluegill, Largemouth Bass to restore fishery)

**General Assessment:** In 2013 a summer kill event likely killed the entire pond (a full evaluation has not been done). This pond may have water nutrient issues related to historic sugar-beet operations. Restoration and nutrient mitigation is being planned for this pond.

## Riverbend Ponds Natural Area Ponds



### #1

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Common Carp,

**Annual Stocking:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill

**General Assessment:** Riverbends Ponds #1 is a 7.3 acre gravel pit pond with gizzard shad base forage.

Sampling has shown low numbers and poor species composition and it is unclear what the limiting factors of this pond might be. More evaluation is necessary.

### #2

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Black Bullhead, Common Carp, White Sucker, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Gizzard Shad,

**Annual Stocking:** Bass and Bluegill

**General Assessment:** Riverbend Ponds #2 is a 9.2 acre gravel pit pond with a mediocre fishery with a strong gizzard shad base and a variety of sport fish captured but usually in low numbers. The pond sampling history suggests occasional partial kills with relatively small size classes and may be influenced by an augmented nutrient inflow from stormwater runoff.

### #3

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Common Carp, Black Crappie, Gizzard Shad, Yellow Perch

**Annual Stocking:** Bass and Bluegill

**General Assessment:** Riverbend Ponds #3 is a 10.8 acre gravel pit pond with a fair largemouth and crappie population sustained by a strong gizzard shad population.

#### #4

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Black Bullhead, Common Carp, Gizzard Shad  
**Annual Stocking:** Bluegill

**General Assessment:** Riverbend Ponds #4 is a 2.8 acre gravel pit pond with fair sizes for largemouth and crappie though numbers are relatively low. Sportfish have some competition with a strong carp population present.

#### #5

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Common Carp, White Sucker, Black Crappie, Gizzard Shad, Yellow Perch

**Annual Stocking:** Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish

**General Assessment:** Riverbend Pond #5 is a 32.8 acre gravel pit pond with a mediocre fishery heavily influenced by carp with fair sized bass in low numbers. Channel catfish have been added to the stocking schedule recently and will add to this fishery over time.

#### #6

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Common Carp, Black Crappie, Gizzard Shad, Smallmouth Bass, Wiper

**Annual Stocking:** Wiper

**General Assessment:** Riverbend Ponds #6 is a 6.8 acre gravel pit pond with a fair fishery for a variety of species including largemouth bass, crappie, and the occasional wiper. Gizzard shad are the primary forage in this pond and wiper are stocked when available.

#### #7

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Black Bullhead, Carp, White Sucker, Black Crappie, Gizzard Shad

**Annual Stocking:** None

**General Assessment:** Riverbend Ponds #7 is a 2 acre gravel pit pond with a poor fishery. This pond is relatively shallow and rooted aquatic vegetation overtakes nearly the entire lake during the summer. All of the species above have been represented at one point or another but the last survey done had zero fish and the previous one only black bullhead. This pond likely had winter and summer kill issues, but in 2013 hybrid grass carp were planted to assess the possibility of removal of some of the vegetation.

## Prospect Ponds Natural Area Ponds

#1

**Species Present:** Common Carp, Sunfish, Fathead Minnows

**Annual Stocking:** None, frequent algae blooms and winterkills, high nutrient content

**General Assessment:** #1 is a small gravel pit pond prone to frequent kills and unsuitable for sportfish.

#2

**Species Present:** Black Crappie, Common Carp, Fathead Minnows

**Annual Stocking:** Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish.

**General Assessment:** Prospect Ponds #2 is a 13 acre pond prone to winter and summerkill problems likely due to excessive nutrient loading from the feedlot to the north.

#3

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Gizzard Shad,

Channel Catfish, White Sucker, Common Carp, Tiger Muskie

**Annual Stocking:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill.

**General Assessment:** Prospect Pond #3 is a 12.7 acre gravel pit pond with a good largemouth bass fishery. This pond grows quality largemouth bass with a variety of forage species. Tiger muskie are planted occasionally to help control stunting but are rarely captured in sampling. Carp are typically represented only by larger individuals. Gizzard shad were a strong component of the fishery but may have disappeared as they have not been sampled since 2006.

## Arapaho Bend Natural Area Ponds



## Beaver

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Wiper, Bluegill, Black Crappie, White Crappie, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Black Bullhead, Gizzard Shad, White Sucker, Common Carp, Saugeye.

**Annual Stocking:** Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Channel Catfish

**General Assessment:** Beaver is a 36 acre gravel pit pond with a good fishery containing good saugeye, wiper and bass. Saugeye were introduced in one stocking in 2011 due to the unavailability of wiper and have done very well in this pond. This population is sustained on a gizzard shad forage with high bluegill numbers. A good expanding crappie fishery is present as well.

## Snapper

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, White Crappie, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Green Sunfish, Pumpkinseed, Common Carp

**Annual Stocking:** Channel Catfish

**General Assessment:** Snapper is a 4.7 acre gravel pit pond with a mediocre fishery containing small bluegill and bass. The bluegill population is stunted, topping out at 6 inches with high numbers.

## Cormorant

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Gizzard Shad, Common Carp, White Sucker

**Annual Stocking:** Channel Catfish

**General Assessment:** Cormorant is a small 3 acre gravel pit pond with a fair fishery favoring a good bass population with a healthy bluegill and gizzard shad forage base. Catfish are stocked to supplement this population.

## Bass

**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, White Crappie, Black Crappie, Green Sunfish, Gizzard Shad, Yellow Perch, Common Carp

**Annual Stocking:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill

**General Assessment:** Bass is a 13 acre gravel pit pond with a fair fishery primarily favoring panfish, especially crappie, with moderately sized largemouth bass and smaller bluegill. Large carp are present but with no smaller age classes detected, do not seem to represent a large proportion of the pond's biomass.

## Pineridge Natural Area- Dixon Reservoir



**Species Present:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, Spottail Shiner, Golden Shiner

**Annual Stocking:** Bluegill, Channel Catfish

**General Assessment:** Dixon is a 44 acre water storage impoundment with a good all-around fishery containing good bluegill and pumpkinseed and bluegill populations, fair largemouth bass and good channel catfish numbers and size. This fishery has a sustaining population of golden shiners augmenting the forage base and no carp are present to detract from the biomass.