

Alley Pond (Survey #:219006)
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Alley Pond is located within Alley Pond Park in eastern Queens, NY and is part of the Long Island Watershed. The pond is just one feature in a vast green space that includes a nature center and other recreational amenities. This picturesque 5-foot-deep, 2-acre pond is at the intersection of two major highways, yet it is quietly hidden by dense woodland and a vegetated shoreline. Alley Pond is spring-fed and water temperatures stay moderate throughout the year. The pond’s outflow meanders through the park, which leads to Little Neck Bay then to the Long Island Sound. For recreational anglers, the pond has limited shoreline access, and at certain times of the year, paths to the water can become indistinguishable from bush. The park is adjacent to neighborhoods where public transportation and street parking is readily available.

In 2017, Trout Unlimited, a non-profit organization, acquired a permit from NYS DEC for stocking brook trout in Alley Pond and released five hundred, 4-inch fish into the pond the following year. On the night of October 2nd, 2019, NYS DEC Region 2 fisheries staff conducted a boat electrofishing survey to assess the survival rate of these released fish. The Black Bass and Sunfish Electrofishing Protocol for Lakes and Ponds (Brooking et al., 2018) was used as a guideline for the survey. Due to the pond’s size, shallow depth and dense aquatic vegetation, only 75% percent of the shoreline was surveyed. The lake was completed in two, 8-minute runs.

A total of 53 fish of 2 species were collected. The majority of the fish were golden shiners, ranging from 1.6 to 4.9 inches, and the remaining were mosquito fish.

In addition, 130 American eels were observed, which is a high number compared with other waterbodies in NYC. For instance, a 2019 survey of Willow Lake, a 45-acre waterbody in Queens with one of the highest observed number of eels in Region 2, recorded less than half the number of eels (n=47) in more than double the time. One possible reason for the high number of eels seen in Alley Pond was its low turbidity at the time of the survey, enabling fisheries staff to observe eels more clearly than in other waterbodies.

Table 1. Number collected/observed and catch rates for species captured during a boat electrofishing survey of Alley Pond.

Species	Total number	Time (h)	Catch rate (fish/h; standard error)
			All sizes
American eel	130 (observed)	.26	N/A
Golden shiner	50 (caught)	.26	192(23)

Brook trout were not among the species collected or observed during this survey. It is possible that the pond’s size, shallow depth and dense aquatic vegetation make it an unsuitable habitat for brook trout. Closer inspection and monitoring of this waterbody are recommended to determine the feasibility of brook trout stocking in the future.



Limited fishing access and the lack of sport fish suggest that Alley Pond provides few recreational angling opportunities.

Literature Cited

Brooking, T., Loukmas, J., Jackson, R., VanDeValk, T. 2018. Black bass and sunfish electrofishing protocol for lakes and ponds. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration, F-63-R, Study 2, Job 2-2.3, Albany, New York.