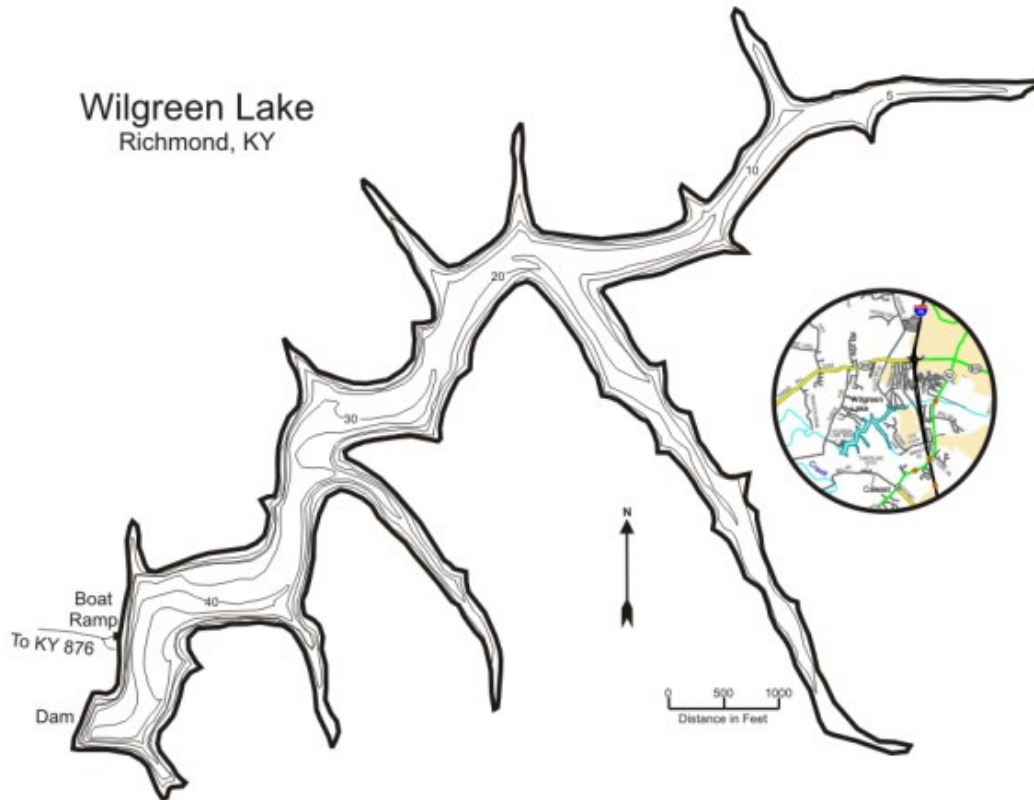


Lake Wilgreen Largemouth Bass Assessment 2022

Lake Wilgreen (also called Taylor Fork Lake or Taylor Valley Lake) is a 169-acre reservoir located about 2 miles to the west of Richmond in Madison County. It was created in 1966 on Taylor Fork, a tributary to Silver Creek. The primary use of the drainage surrounding the lake is urban development and agriculture. It is a popular destination for angler fishing for largemouth bass, channel and blue catfish, sunfish species (mainly bluegill and redear sunfish), crappie, and saugeye.

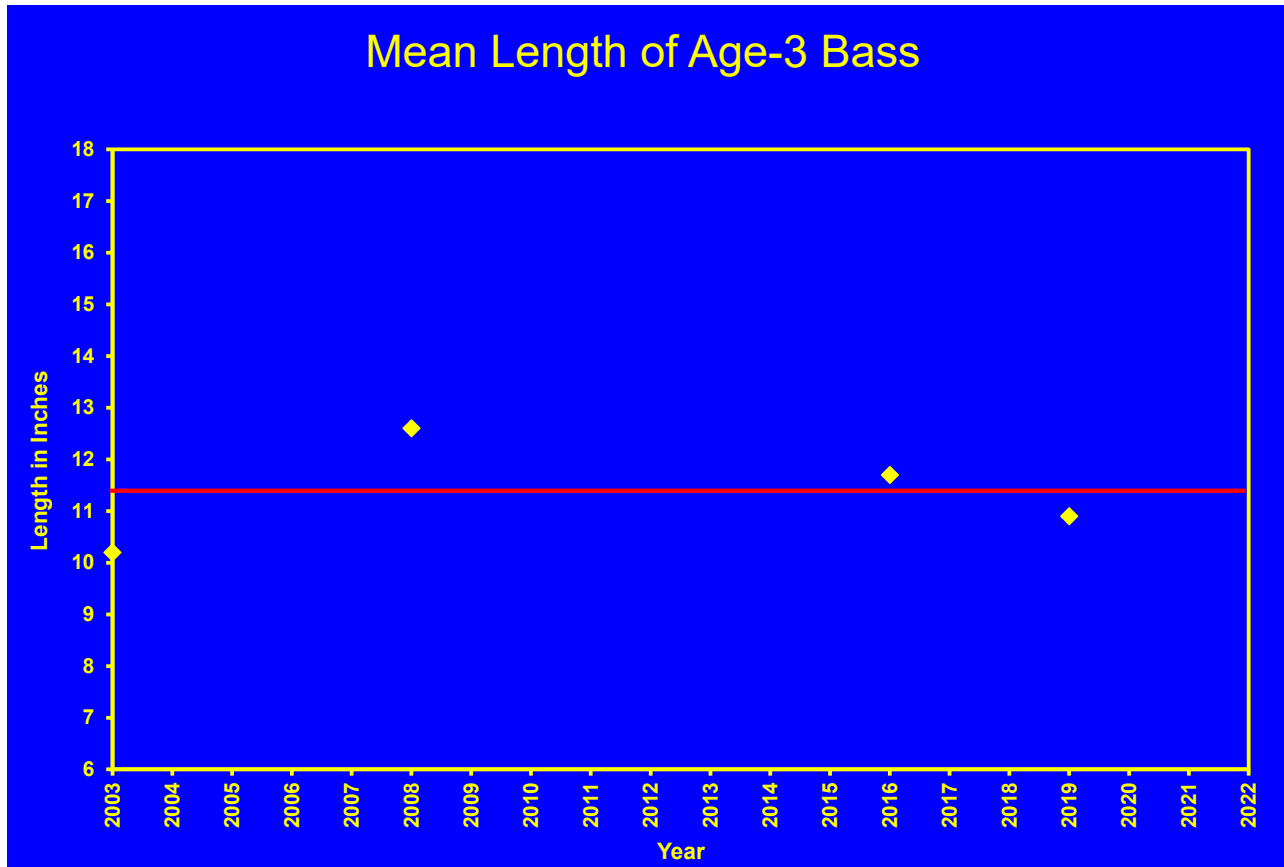
Please see the [Sportfish Assessments](#) page for an explanation of how the assessment works and for a list of other lakes with largemouth bass assessments.

Please note that largemouth bass fall under the “Statewide Regulations” category of a 12-inch minimum size limit and 6-fish daily creel limit at Lake Wilgreen.



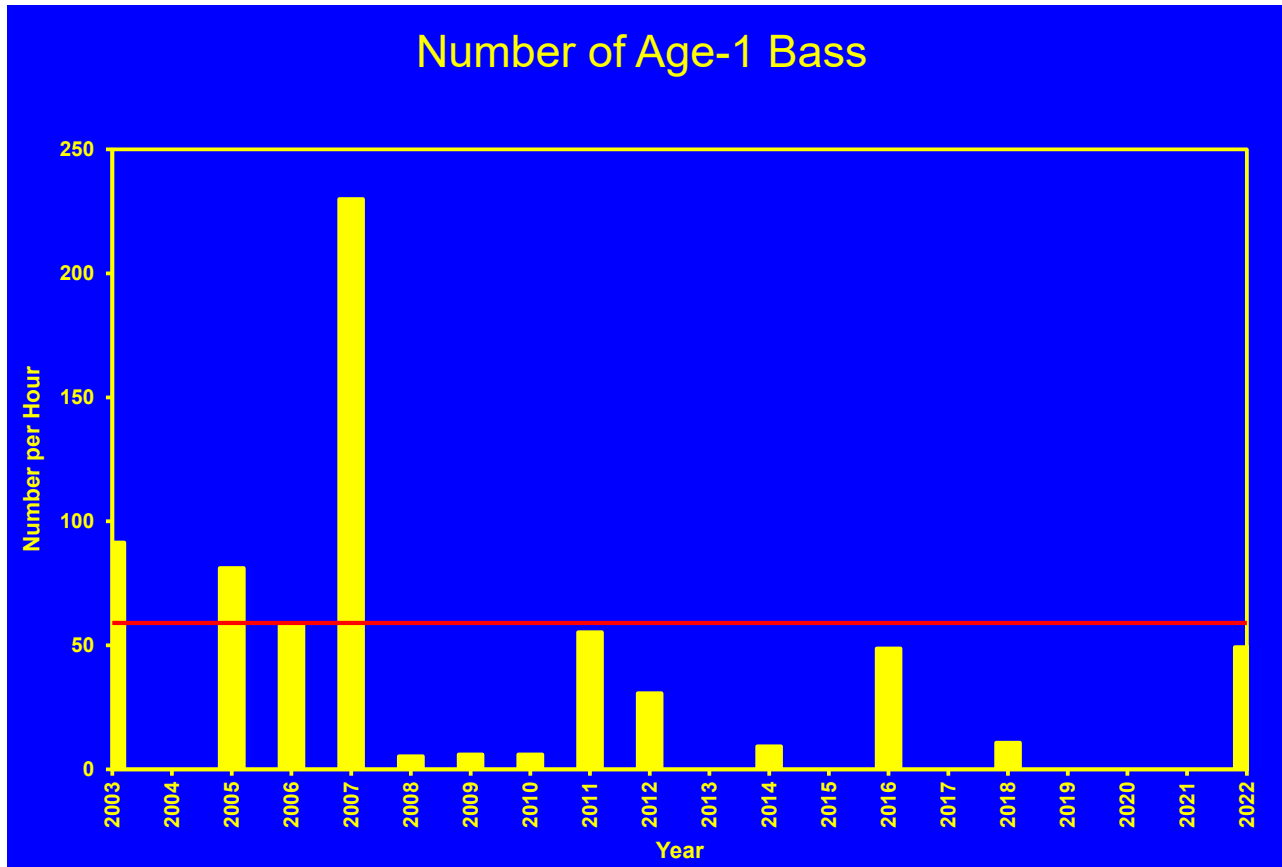
Parameter 1 – Mean Length at Age-3 (growth rate)

At Lake Wilgreen, since 2000, the average length of a 3-year-old largemouth bass is 11.3 inches (represented by the red line). This parameter is an average of the lengths of all three-year-old bass collected, and is important for management purposes because it indicates how well fish are growing. When compared to other lakes of similar size, this growth rate for largemouth bass is considered “good”. Growth rates can change annually and are tied to factors such as population density, watershed fertility, food availability, and weather.



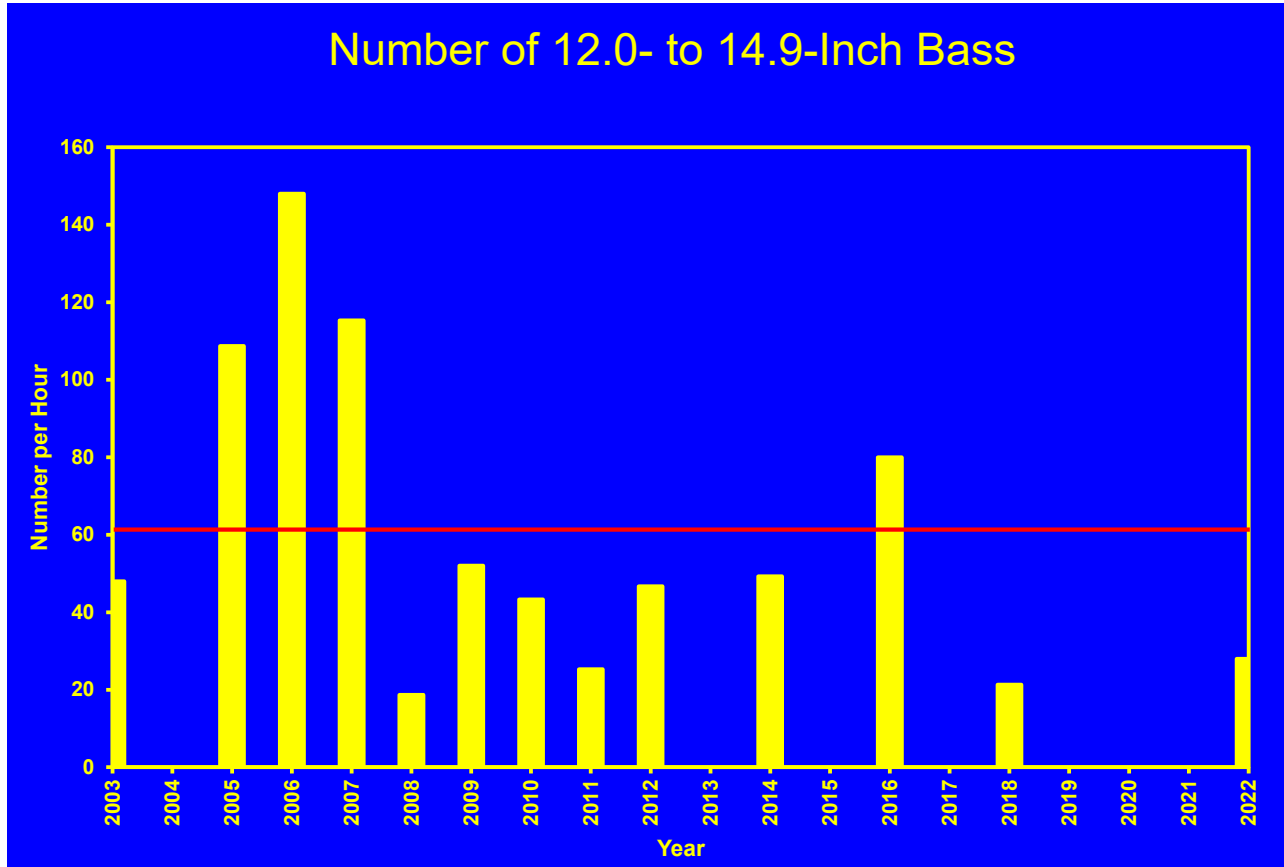
Parameter 2 – Number of Age-1 Bass (spawning success)

The electrofishing catch rate of 1-year-old largemouth bass is calculated to determine the spawning success of the previous year. This is an important parameter because the number of age-1 bass can be used as a predictor for how good fishing will be in the future. At Lake Wilgreen, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged 52.6 fish/hour which is “good.” when compared to lakes of similar size. Excluding a potential outlier in 2007, the catch rate averages 39.0 fish/hour which still would be considered “good”.



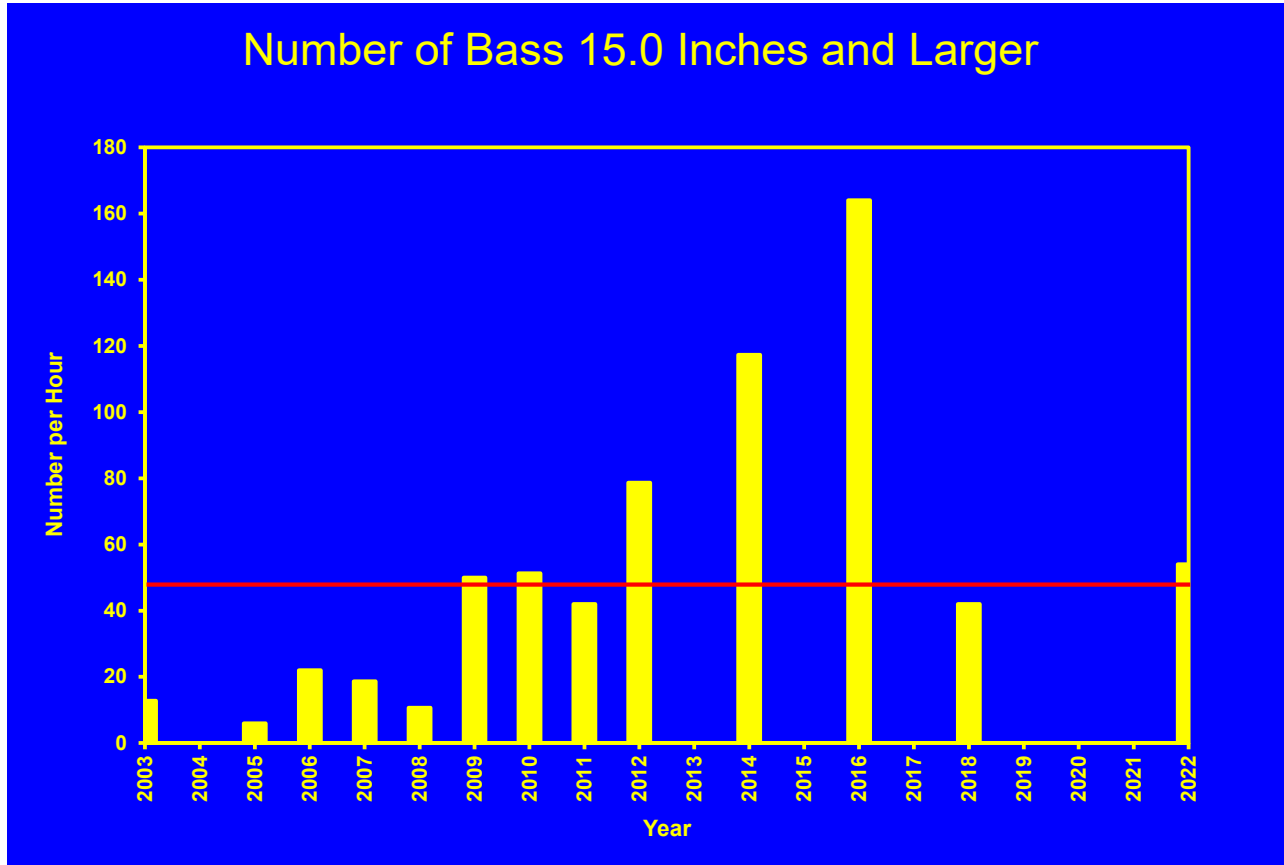
Parameter 3 – Number of 12.0- to 14.9-Inch Bass

The electrofishing catch for 12.0- to 14.9-inch largemouth bass has averaged 60.2 fish/hour since 2000. This puts Lake Wilgreen in the “excellent” category when compared to other similarly sized lakes.



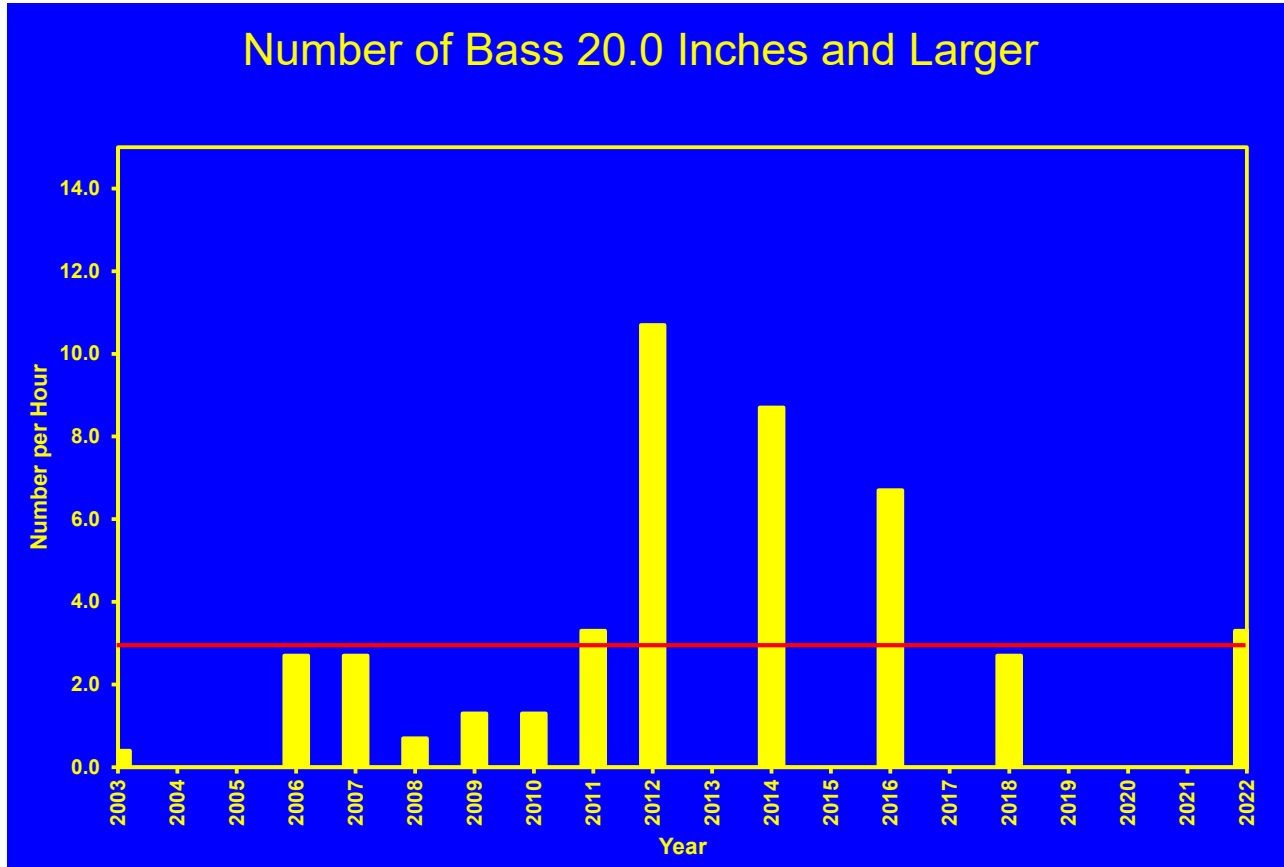
Parameter 4 – Number of Bass 15.0 Inches and Larger

The catch rate of 15.0-inch and larger largemouth bass at Lake Wilgreen has averaged 48.3 fish/hour of electrofishing since 2000. When compared to lakes of similar size, this catch rate is “excellent”. Catch rates of 15.0-inch and larger fish can be inconstant and erratic because larger fish are more difficult to sample. Since the gradual increase from 2009-2016, these numbers have dropped back to near or below average. Even at this level, these numbers are still fantastic.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0-inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0-inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 3.2 fish/hour for Lake Wilgreen since 2000. When compared to similarly sized lakes this catch rate is considered “good”.



Overall – Total Assessment Score (all five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Lake Wilgreen has averaged a “good” rating (15.3) over the last 20 years, as indicated by the red line. Sampling data can be highly variable due to a multitude of factors; therefore, it is important to look at data over time as opposed to information collected in a single year when making management decisions.

Recent assessments on the upper end of good to excellent are due to the high number of fish over 15.0 and 20.0 inches. The lake provides an excellent chance to catch a trophy size bass.

Note: spring sampling is attempted every other year.

