

FACT SHEET

H.B. Parsons Fish Hatchery
City of Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation

The H.B. Parsons Fish Hatchery has been supporting fishing in Oklahoma City since **1983**.

"Your job is to reduce the time between bites."

- Herbert Hoover,
31st President of the
United States

Oklahoma City operates a complete fisheries program consisting of **fish culture, fish management, aquatic education, and extension.**

Aquatic Education

Hooked on Fishing!
600 children and **400** adults attend the nine *free* fishing classes offered each summer at Close to Home waters.

Co-sponsors: ODWC, OKC PAL, Metro Tech, and City Care

A family trout fishing clinic and other clinics are also offered throughout the year.

Extension and Outreach

Extension technical advice is available to the public.

A staff representative attends OKC's Game and Fish Commission meetings.

Staff have advised multiple Eagle Scout fisheries projects.

Fish Culture

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) provides an excess of **1.2 million fishes** annually for the hatchery and direct stockings at no cost to the city.

Fish species currently reared are walleye, striped bass hybrids, channel catfish, and hybrid sunfish. Smallmouth bass have been reared in past years.

Fish Management

Walleye are stocked at Lake Hefner, striped bass hybrids at Lake Overholser, and channel catfish at Lake Stanley Draper and Close to Home waters, with an average of **500,000** fishes stocked annually.

8,000 surface acres of fishable water are managed in cooperation with ODWC. This includes our 3 City Lakes, 8 Close to Home waters, the Oklahoma River, and the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge.

City fishing waters receive regular fish stockings, fish collection surveys, angler creel surveys, habitat enhancement, fishing and boating access improvement, and fish feeder and aeration operation.

From 1985-2000, an annual rainbow trout fish-out was held at Woodson Park swimming pool, with 1,200 people attending each year.

Since 2001, we have supported trout season at Dolese Park Pond. Trout season provides **18,000+** hours of fishing and **\$300,000** to the local economy, with a **75%** satisfaction rating and approximately **85%** harvest rate. Co-sponsors: Dolese Brothers, Trout Unlimited, and ODWC

Questions?

Contact Bob Martin, Fisheries Biologist

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