

Plantation Heritage Fish Management Area (FMA) is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) South Region Fisheries Management Section. This FMA was created in 1990 and benefits from a number of enhancements designed to improve fishing and angler access at this site. Plantation Heritage FMA is a cooperative project between the FWC and Broward County Parks and Recreation Division. Sport Fish Restoration funds pay for 75% of this project. These monies are federal tax dollars collected from the sale of fishing equipment and accessories to support access improvements, educational programs, aquatic habitat improvement, and fisheries research.

The lake within this FMA is six acres in size and is characterized by a sand bottom and very clear water. The blue tint of the water is a harmless dye placed in the lake to reduce algae growth. Good shoreline access is available around most of the lake.

### Fish feeders



**Feeders dispense food automatically.**

Fish feeders have been placed in Plantation Heritage FMA in order to provide food and increase the growth rates of fish that are already present as well as those that are stocked. The feeders dispense fish food automatically several times per day. They provide the best locations to catch catfish and sunfish within the FMA. Although they do not eat the fish food directly, largemouth bass are also attracted to the feeders by the baitfish

and smaller sportfish that congregate around them.

### Stocking



**Channel catfish are 6-8" long when stocked.**

This site is stocked every year with 4,000 channel catfish. Over 45,000 of these fish have been placed in the lake since the FMA's start in 1990. These catfish do not reproduce well in south Florida lakes, so they are stocked annually in order to maintain high numbers for anglers.

### Aeration system



**Aeration provides oxygen for the lake.**

A blower pump and airstone system provide Plantation Heritage FMA with a constant supply of oxygen to reduce the possibility of low-oxygen fish kills. This "insurance" protects the investment in time, equipment, and stocking that has been made here.

### Vegetation management

Control of undesirable plant species and introduction of beneficial plant species

is practiced to enhance habitat for fish as well as to improve angler access within Plantation Heritage FMA. Cattail treatment provides shoreline access, while control of undesirable algae present in the lake facilitates angling.

### Special regulations

In order to provide better angling, special regulations are in place to protect fish populations within Plantation Heritage FMA:

- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20.
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.

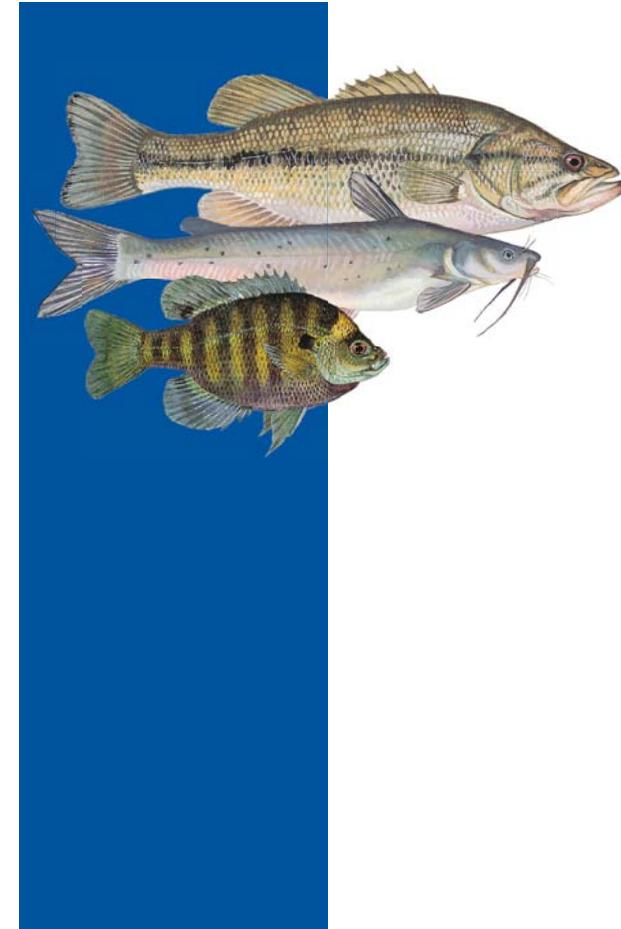
A fishing license is required for residents from 16 to 64 years of age, and for nonresidents 16 or more years of age, to fish by any method, including cane poles, on a Fish Management Area.

### Directions

Take University Drive to Peters Road and turn east. Turn north (left) on South Fig Tree Lane (at the traffic light) and the park will be on your immediate right. To access University Drive from the Turnpike, get off at the 595/SR 84 interchange (Exit 54) heading west and get off at either of the first two exits (Exits 7 or 6). Both connect immediately to SR 84 west which leads directly to University Drive. Turn north (right) to Peters Road, which will be at the next traffic light. For park information, call (954) 357-5135.

# Plantation Heritage Fish Management Area

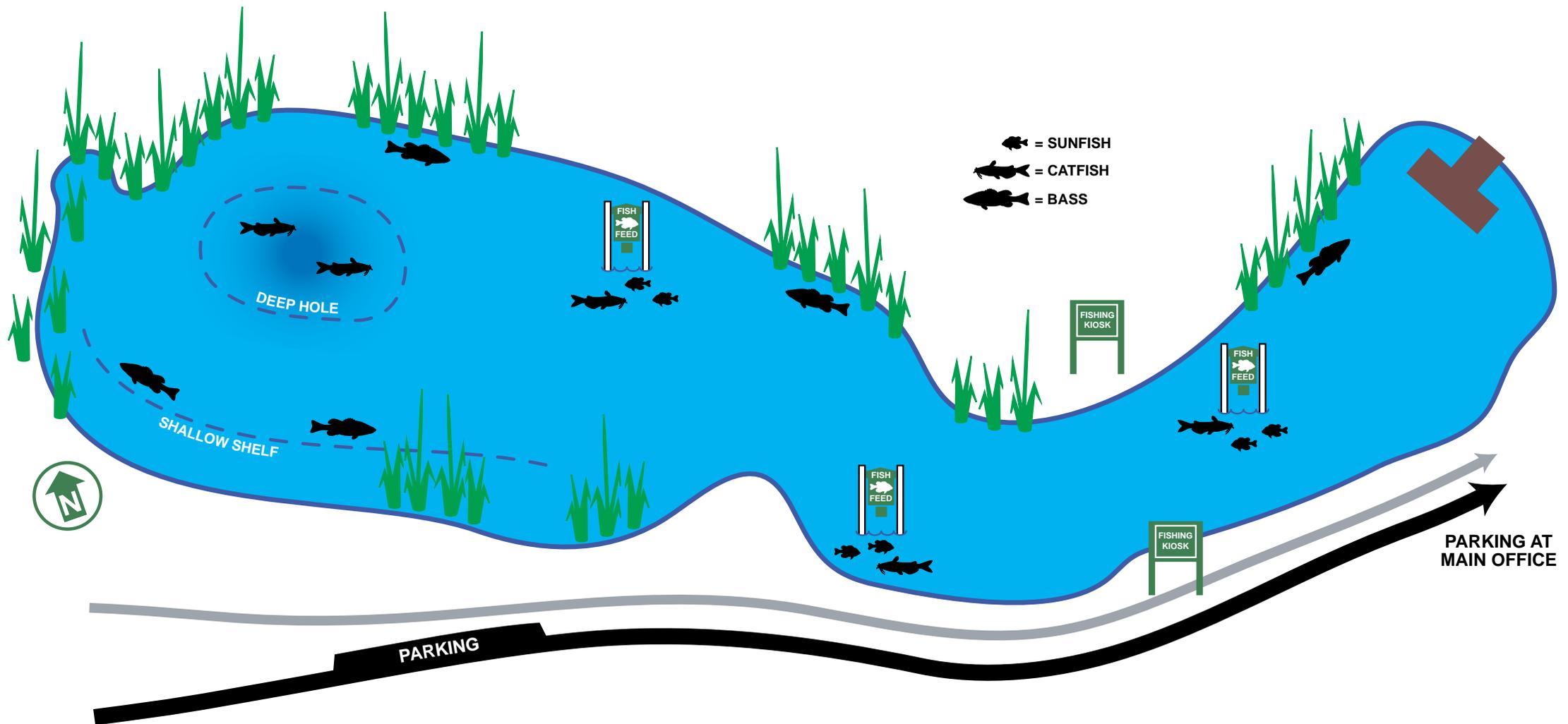
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## Fish species present (and how to catch them)

**Bluegill and redear sunfish** — These popular and cooperative panfish are found around the fish feeders and near vegetation or structure. Live worms or crickets fished a few feet under a small bobber are a sure bet. Doughballs and small pieces of cut hot dog also work well. Good lures include small jigs, beetle spins, and tiny spinners. Flyrod anglers can score with small popping bugs, wet flies, and nymphs.



**Channel catfish** — This species has been documented over 12 pounds in the lake, although larger specimens have been

reported by anglers. They are readily found at the fish feeders and in deeper “holes” in the lake. Chicken and beef livers work well as baits, as well as commercial “stink baits” sold in bait and tackle shops. Fish directly on the bottom, or deep under a small bobber. Catfish are rarely taken on lures.



**Largemouth bass** — Although they are plentiful, these fish tend to be small within Plantation Heritage FMA (about 10-12” on average). Anglers should use light tackle and smaller lures, including plastic worms, minnow imitations, and



spinnerbaits. Medium-sized popping bugs and streamers will produce fish for flyrodders. Small shiners and live worms are the best baits. Use stealth to approach bass due to the very clear water. **Anglers using bait should set the hook quickly to prevent deep-hooked fish, as all bass caught must be released unharmed immediately.**

**Spotted tilapia** — This is an exotic species from Africa that has become established in the lake. A reluctant biter, it can still be caught on live worms and doughballs fished under a small bobber, but seldom shows interest in lures. The firm white meat provides excellent eating. **It is illegal to transport any exotic fish alive or to release it into another water body.**

