

A **fish management area (FMA)** is a pond, lake or other body of water established for the management of freshwater fish as a cooperative effort with the local county. The FWC's Division of Freshwater Fisheries manages about 80 water bodies throughout the state that are designated as Fish Management Areas. Examples include most community-based fishing lakes and Commission-managed impoundments.

Al Lopez Park Lake is a 10 acre FMA. This park has a dog park that includes a large fenced-in dog park with a separate fenced-in area for smaller dogs. The park is located in West Tampa, just north of Raymond James Stadium.

Fish feeders



Feeders dispense food automatically.

Fish feeders have been placed in Al Lopez Park 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 cat fish 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 sport fish that congregate around them.

Vegetation management



Invasive plant species water lettuce.

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 Al Lopez Park FMA. Designated bank access sites provide good opportunities for anglers on foot.

Special regulations

In order to provide better angling, special regulations are in place to protect fish populations within Al Lopez Park FMA:

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- Panfish bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish bag limit: 6
- Swimming, and taking of fish or wildlife with firearms are prohibited.

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.

Hours and Fees

Hours: Sunrise to sunset.

Fee: An entrance fee is not required.

Directions

From St. Petersburg: First follow I-275 N to US-92 E in Tampa. Take the US-92 W exit from I-275 N. Then turn left onto US-92 E. Then turn right onto W Dr M.L.K. Jr Blvd . Then 2 miles later turn left onto N Himes Ave. Finally, turn left at W New Orleans Ave.

From North: First, drive from State Hwy 597 and FL-580 W to Tampa. Then turn right onto N Himes Ave. Then quickly turn right for the park.

From East: First, take I-4 W to Tampa. Then take exit 41B from I-275 S. Then merge onto W Green St. Use the right 2 lanes to turn right onto N Himes Ave. Then turn left at W New Orleans Ave.

From West: First, take FL-580 E/W Hillsborough Ave. Then turn right onto N Himes Ave and finally take a right for the park.

Contact This Park

4810 N Himes Ave
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 348-1172



Your Purchase of Fishing Equipment and Motorboat Fuels Supports Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Access Facilities.

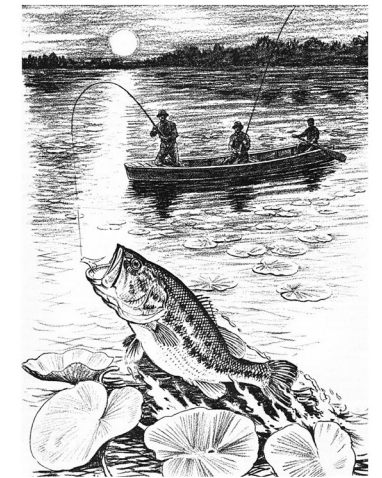


Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

Al Lopez

Fish Management Area

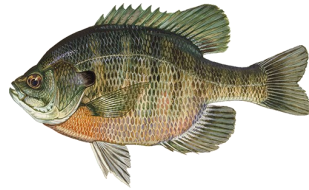
Hillsborough County



Florida Fish and Wildlife
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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 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 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.



Brown bullhead Browns generally inhabit still or slowly-flowing warm waters in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, large rivers and sluggish streams. Fair fighters, they are easy to catch with baits such as worms, minnows, shrimp, chicken innards and stink

baits. They bite throughout the day, but fishing is best at night.

Blue tilapia These are a nonnative species, not normally known for their angling quality. The exception being some urban anglers catch these in ponds using small pieces of hot dogs, bread balls, dog food, or live worms; no bag or size limits. They are rarely caught on artificial lures. There is also a group of avid bow anglers that target this species.



Fish images © Duane Raver Blue tilapia © Diane Rome Peebles

West Hillsborough Ave.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="403 787 833 1209"> <p>Fish and Wildlife Alert Reward Program Report fishing, boating or hunting law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; report violations online at MyFWC.com/Law or text: Tip@MyFWC.com.</p> <p>Fishing License To instantly purchase a fishing license using a credit card, call 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA or go to the FWC Web site listed below. www.MyFWC.com</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1236 803 1451 836">North Himes Ave.</div> <div data-bbox="1666 812 1720 844"></div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Entrance Parking Restroom Fishing Pier Pavillion Fish Feeder/Attractor </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px; text-align: right;"> <p>N</p> <p>Miles 0 0.025 0.05</p> </div>
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