



LAUREL LAKE

LEE
AREA = 170 ACRES

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

LAUREL LAKE

(Lee / Lenox)

General Information:

This 170-acre alkaline great pond, also known as Scotch Pond or Scotts Pond, is privately owned and located just north of Route 20 in the heart of the Berkshires. Maximum depth is 53 feet; average depth is 26 feet. Transparency is good, extending to 12 feet, although algae blooms, which often occur in August, can reduce this considerably. The bottom is composed primarily of gravel rock and rubble, but there is considerable clay and mud in the coves. Wherever there is mud bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation is extremely abundant, extending to depths of 15 feet or more.

The Public Access Board owns a paved ramp and large parking lot located off Route 20 on the southern tip of the lake. The ramp is suitable for small trailer boats, car top boats and canoes, and there is no fee to launch. Shore fishing access is limited mostly to the boat ramp parking area due to private ownership, but there is little shoreline development except on the northern end of the lake.

Fish Populations:

The lake was last surveyed in 1982, at which time 14 species were present: largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, white perch, rock bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, black crappie, smallmouth bass, carp, brown bullhead, white sucker, rainbow smelt and golden shiner. Each spring the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife also releases thousands of catchable trout here — usually rainbows and browns — and follows that up with a moderate fall stocking that maintains a successful trout fishery throughout the year. The lake is also stocked with broodstock salmon whenever the fish are available.

Fishing:

This lake offers such a variety of fishing opportunities that virtually any angler will have fun here. Spring is the best season for trout fishing, but those who enjoy carp angling should also put this pond on their list for May or June. Bass fishing is good throughout the summer months, although it is limited almost entirely to largemouths. (The smallmouth population has been declining for many years, and it may be gone by now.) Panfish — particularly the bluegills, pumpkinseeds and bullheads — also provide excellent action and good table fare throughout the summer. Fall provides another trout blitz, while winter brings lots of ice fishing action for pickerel, yellow perch and panfish. Although the stocked trout probably attract the most fishing pressure to this lake, the best gamefish in terms of abundance and large average size are the pickerel.

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