



FOREST LAKE

Palmer
Area : 44 Acres

Not to be used for Navigational Purposes

Forest Lake (Palmer)

General Information:

This is a 43-acre marginal trout pond. Roughly 10% of the volume is classified as trout water. Average depth is ten feet, while maximum depth is 26 feet. The watercolor is clear with a transparency of 10.0 feet. The bottom consists of gravel and mud. There are 1.5 miles of shoreline, roughly 30% of which is developed. Emergent aquatic vegetation covers 15% of the surface area.

Access is an informal gravel launch area located off Bennett Street, over the area, which also serves as a beach. Limited boat trailer parking is available. At present there is a horsepower restriction. Check with local authorities.

Forest Lake can be located on the U.S.G.S. topographical quad map titled "Palmer." Nearby fishing areas include the Swift, Quaboag and Ware Rivers.

Fish Populations:

A 1979 fish population assessment found 15 species. Gamefish included largemouth bass, chain pickerel, rainbow trout and brown trout. Nongame species are yellow perch, white perch, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, red breasted sunfish, golden shiners, killifish, brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, and American eel. Walleye have been reported from here, but none were found during sampling operations.

Fishing:

Forest Lake receives trout during both the spring and fall stocking seasons. The majority of trout are rainbows nine inches or better; the rest are brown trout. Heaviest pressure on trout is from late April to late May. Largemouth bass here display average growth rates, but the population is over harvested, and quality fish over 12 inches are scant. Chain pickerel growth rates appear slow. Yellow perch fishing should be good, as 60% of the sample was eight inches and better. The lake also has a good population of brown bullheads 10 inches and better.

March 1993