



Oxbow, Easthampton/Northampton

General Information

The Oxbow is a fertile, 231 acre pond located off of Rt. 5 near the Easthampton-Northampton town line. This horseshoe shaped pond is an old meander in the Connecticut River than was cut from the channel proper after a flood in 1840. Boaters may travel around the bend in the Oxbow and to and from the Connecticut river via bridge passageways under Rt. 91 and Rt. 5, however the northeastern lobe of the Oxbow is cutoff from boat access. The average depth of the Oxbow is 8 feet with a maximum of 33 feet. However, because the Oxbow is still hydrologically connected to the Connecticut River, changes in river flow will cause depths and water clarity to vary. The bottom is primarily silt intermixed with areas of muck and gravel. Aquatic vegetation is common and can become thick in some nearshore and backwater areas. The Oxbow is home to one of the largest marinas on the Connecticut River and is a popular destination for recreational boaters, water skiers, and anglers and hosts several fishing tournaments each year.

Recreational Access

The Department of Conservation and Recreation maintains a large concrete boat ramp (72°37'5.890"W 42°17'17.93"N) and adjacent parking are suitable for 32 trailers. Shoreline access is limited to areas adjacent to the ramp. Please contact the offices of the Connecticut River Greenway State Park for additional information, and/or restrictions pertaining to public access of Oxbow Pond.

Fish Populations

The following fish species were found during MassWildlife surveys: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Chain Pickerel, Bowfin, Common Carp, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Brown Bullhead, Yellow Bullhead, White Sucker, American Eel, Gizzard Shad, Fallfish, Tesselated Darter, and Golden Shiner.

Fishing

The Oxbow, largely due to the influence of the Connecticut River is one of the most productive and species rich waterbodies in the commonwealth. Large and Small mouth Bass fishing is very popular with fish commonly reaching 4 - 5 lbs. Northern Pike in the 10- 20 lb range, Carp between 20 – 30 lbs, 5 lb Walleye and 5 lb Bowfin are also consistently produced in this waterbody. Yellow Perch, White Perch, Sunfish, and large Bullhead are also abundant. The sheer diversity of game fish present in the Oxbow draws anglers from across the state as one could theoretically catch every non-salmonid game fish (with the exception of Tiger Muskie) recognized by the Massachusetts Sportfishing Awards program within the Oxbo. Oxbo Pond has produced Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Chain Pickerel, Bowfin, Common Carp, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Black Crappie, Bullhead, and Sunfish, that meet minimum sizes for recognition by the Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program.

Useful Links:

[Get your Fishing License](#)

[Freshwater Fishing](#)

[Trout Stocking Information](#)

[Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program](#)

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Updated: 2018



Oxbow

231 Acres

Easthampton/Northampton
Connecticut River Watershed

Coordinates: 72°37'05"W 42°17'17"N
USGS Quad: EASTHAMPTON/MT HOLYOKE

