

## BALDPATE POND, BOXFORD, MA



Baldpate Pond is situated in north central Boxford, MA near the Boxford-Georgetown town line, at the intersection of Baldpate Road and Great Pond Drive. It is bordered on the North by the 105 acre Baldpate Pond Forest and the Camp Dennison property. Its Southern boundary includes a series of residences along Great Pond Drive, and its Easterly boundary rests in wetlands that extend into Georgetown, including Penn Brook. Public access can be found to the West along Baldpate Road which includes several parking areas and a gravel boat launch. Traveling North along Baldpate Road is yet another parking area which serves as the trailhead for a series of trails along the Pond's North boundary with several water access points.

The forty-four acre Camp Denison is a managed conservation area located in Georgetown. The Camp currently has 9 trails, as well as access trails from the Lodge to two parking areas. All trails are available from sun-up to sun-set the year round for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, nature walks, etc. Not allowed are bicycles, horses, and motorized vehicles. Facilities, which include a nature center, gazebo and four cabins, can be rented by the public. Check the Camp's website ([campdenison.com](http://campdenison.com)) for details including a detailed trail map.

Although no swimming is permitted in Baldpate Pond, it is heavily used by fishermen and recreational boaters (kayaks, canoes). Powered watercraft is limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower (Town Code §61-1, MGL c131, §45). The Pond is stocked each spring (April) and fall (October) with rainbow trout by the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Some of these hatchery fish have been known to winter over and thrive in the natural surroundings, taking on the colorful appearance of native trout. However, no natural propagation of trout species is known to have occurred. On occasion, brown trout can also be caught. Native fish species include chain pickerel, black crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads and largemouth bass which are known to sometimes exceed four pounds. Public shoreline fishing access can

be found immediately South of the boat launch area along Baldpate Road. The Pond is also a very popular and often productive ice fishing locale.

Given the proximity of woodlands areas, a variety of wildlife have been observed in and around Baldpate Pond including deer, fishers, fox, otters, a variety of turtles, and waterfowl including an occasional osprey taking advantage of unwary hatchery trout.

The Pond encompasses 66 surface acres with a maximum depth of 41 feet, the deepest spot being located at the midpoint of the Pond. Invasive plant species can be found in Baldpate Pond, including fanwort and milfoil, which become most prominent during the summer months. Although invasives have not yet become a major problem here, local residents have grown increasingly concerned as their presence has increased in recent years.

