

LOWE POND, BOXFORD MA



Low Pond is situated in the North Central portion of the Town of Boxford near the old railroad station, which was used to ship lumber. The pond is on Pye Brook in the Ipswich River Watershed. Its inlet is from a brook which crosses Georgetown Road fed by Four Mile Pond and assorted wetlands on the west side. Low Pond was created sometime prior to 1770 by damming what was then a wet meadow. Once constructed, the dam was used to power a sawmill originally owned by General Solomon Lowe. The privately owned earthen structure is located at the eastern end of the pond. The dam is registered with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Dam Safety and rated as an intermediary sized structure with low hazard potential. The raceway for the mill and portions of the foundation wall are still visible on the property on Depot Road.



Low Pond is used for recreational purposes such as boating (kayaks, canoes, small sailboats) and fishing. Powered watercraft is limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower (Town Code §61-1, MGL c131, §45). There are no swimming areas. Native species such as bass, pickerel, perch and sunfish are present. In winter, ice fishing and skating are popular occurrences. A small piece of town property at the end of Chapman Lane provides public access though it is challenging in late

summer when the water level is low. A short walking trail marked with BTA/BOLT signage extends from Boren Lane through Chapman Lane.

A variety of wildlife abounds on Lowe Pond and its surroundings: deer, fox, fishers, raccoons, coyotes, beaver, otters, various turtles and frogs. Many waterfowl including great blue herons, cormorants, geese, osprey, and ducks (mallards, buffleheads, hooded mergansers, wood ducks, ring-necked ducks) can be seen. An occasional pied-billed grebe, egret and bald eagle have also been spotted.

The pond encompasses approximately 30 surface acres and is quite shallow with a mean depth of 3 feet and a maximum depth of 6 feet. Approximately 25 residences abut its borders. Lilies and water shield are some of the aquatic plant species found in Lowe Pond as well as invasive species such as fanwort, milfoil and bladderwort. The pond has a long history of efforts by neighbors to decrease and control the presence of the dense vegetation growth that occurs in summer months.