

Blairs Pond
28.5 acres
Milford, Delaware

Fish Community

Blairs Pond is the upper-most pond in the 'Milford Chain of Lakes', followed by Griffith Lake, Haven Lake, and Silver Lake (Milford). The Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted electrofish sampling in 2015 to evaluate the fish community. The abundance of Largemouth Bass observed during sampling declined since the pond was last sampled in 2010. However, the water was very clear at the time of sampling and numerous bass were observed darting away before they could be collected for sampling. Although the sample size was quite small, the proportion of bass >12" was within the target range for a balanced fish community. According to records from the Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament Live Release Program (<http://de.gov/livereleaseprogram>), anglers reported catching citation sized bass in 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Schools of bass fry were observed indicating successful reproduction in 2015. Relative weights (measure of condition or 'plumpness') were good for all size groups except for bass greater than 13" but the sample size was too small to draw definitive conclusions. Bluegill were less abundant in 2015, however, the proportion of 6-8" Bluegill was indicative of a balanced fish community and average relative weight was good although not consistent between size groups. Black Crappie were at a very low abundance which has been a trend at this pond for many years. Despite the lack of large crappie observed during sampling, anglers have reported catches of citation sized (>1lb) crappie. Other species observed during sampling include: American Eel, Creek Chubsucker, Brown Bullhead, Chain Pickerel, Pumpkinseed, and Yellow Perch. Chain Pickerel were moderately abundant in 2010 and although none were observed in 2015, it is not an indication of absence. Chain Pickerel tend to occur in open water habitat away from the shoreline. Coupled with the ability to outswim approaching electrofishing gear, the status of this species is not typically accurately represented in electrofishing catches in Delaware ponds.

Vegetation

Hydrilla, a non-native, invasive submersed aquatic plant, was first documented in the 1990s and by 2005 had spread throughout the pond. The heavy coverage of hydrilla by late summer makes fishing difficult in the shallow upstream areas as the plant tops out on the pond surface. Excessive aquatic vegetation can adversely impact the fish community by making it more difficult and energy costly for predators, such as bass, to catch prey seeking shelter in the vegetation. The prey in turn can become overabundant which impacts their growth and condition. Because some vegetation is beneficial (the Division strives for about 40% coverage), herbicide treatments have been conducted over the years to control, but not eliminate, the hydrilla. Small beds of spatterdock are present in the pond but mostly in the upper portion of Tantrough Branch.

Special Conditions

There are currently no special conditions that apply to this pond.

Access

Blairs Pond is one of the best ponds for shore angling as much of the shoreline is accessible to bank anglers. There is ample shore access next to the boat ramp and along the dam. This area also has a few picnic tables. The shore area between the dike and the two water control outlets is a popular area for catching sunfish. There are also some accessible shore areas along the Milford Millponds Nature Preserve and Blairs Pond Trail which is a network of trails that abut the pond to the east. The boat ramp and adjacent parking area has enough space to accommodate up to about 10 boat trailers.



The boat ramp at Blairs Pond is off of Williamsville Road, west of Milford.



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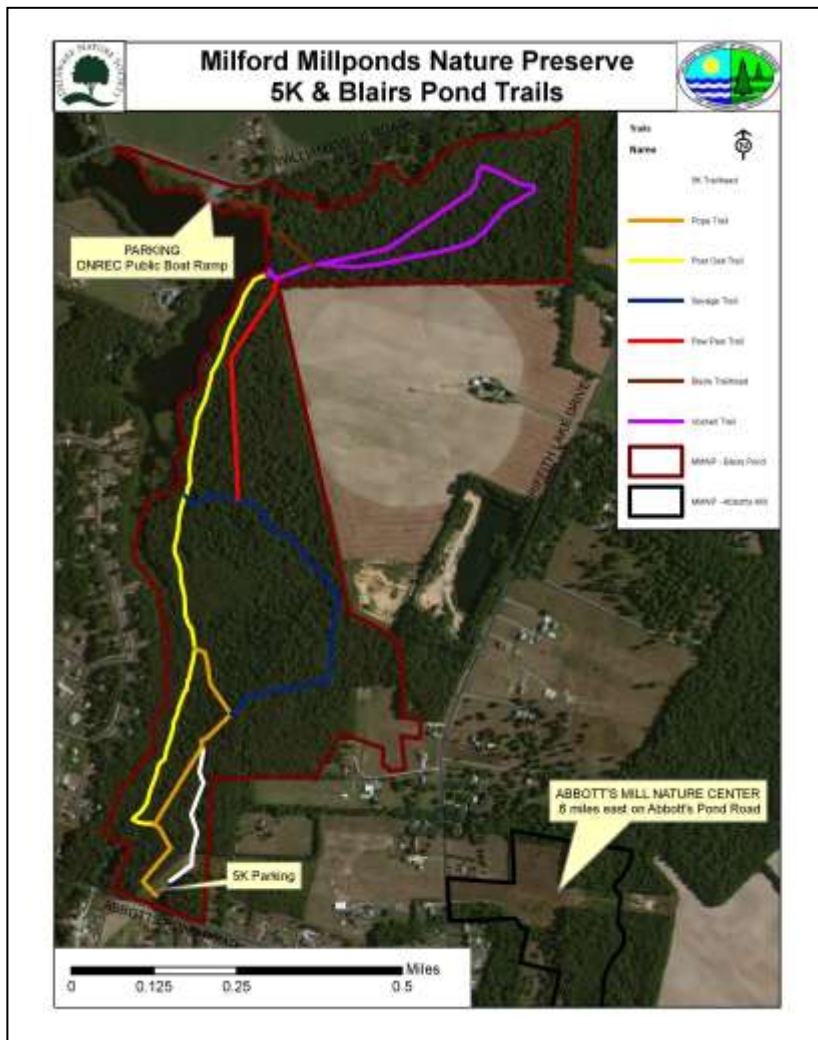
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Clean all recreational equipment.
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When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



Helps us stop the spread of invasive species



(see Pond Map on next page)

