

**Derby Pond**  
23.1 acres  
Woodside, DE

**Fish Community**

The Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted an evaluation of the fish community via electrofishing during the spring of 2016. Largemouth Bass are less abundant than they were when the pond was last sampled in 2011, but the proportion of quality size bass  $\geq 12''$  improved. In the past, the population was dominated by sub-adult fish (8''-12''), but in recent years abundance of this size group has declined. Gaps in the size distribution of the population indicate sporadic spawning. Relative weights (measure of body condition or 'plumpness') are fair to poor for some size groups despite the abundance of prey species. Nesting, foraging efficiency, and survival may be impacted by issues with water quality in recent years. Excessive algae and reduced water flow from irrigation withdrawals are just two of several factors that could be affecting water quality.

Bluegill are moderately abundant with very good relative weights. The proportion of fish  $\geq 6''$  is indicative of a balanced population. Larger Bluegill often concentrate in areas along the shoreline adjacent to Upper King Road and around the islands during the spring and fall months. Black Crappie are not abundant although the potential to catch larger individuals ( $\geq 8''$ ) are good in Derby Pond. Anglers have reported catching citation size crappie ( $\geq 1$  lb or  $\geq 10''$ ) to Delaware's Sportfish Tournament Program (<http://de.gov/livereleaseprogram>). The center of the pond, where the two arms meet, is a good location for catching both crappie and Yellow Perch. Yellow Perch are fairly abundant and occasionally a citation sized ( $\geq 1$  lb or  $\geq 12''$ ) fish is reported by anglers. White Perch numbers have increased substantially compared to that observed in 2011, while Pumpkinseed numbers have decreased. Only a few Chain Pickerel were observed in 2016 but this species has the ability to effectively avoid electrofishing gear and were likely underrepresented in the sample. Several individuals  $\geq 15''$  were noted leaping out of the water and swimming away as the boat approached. Catfish populations are also difficult to assess because they tend to inhabit deep areas near the pond bottom where the electrofishing gear is less effective. Although Brown Bullhead were not observed in 2016, they likely still persist at least in low abundance. Other species observed in 2016 include: Golden Shiner, American Eel, Gizzard Shad and Common Carp.

**Vegetation**

The aquatic vegetation in this pond consists primarily of spatterdock beds and mats of filamentous algae that form as early as the end of April in some years. In addition to nutrients from stormwater run-off, large numbers of Canada geese in and around the pond contribute to the nutrient load within the pond. These nutrients fuel plant growth and it is common during the summer for the pond to appear bright green from excessive planktonic (single celled) algae. Herbicides are used periodically to control the filamentous algae but it is difficult to eradicate. Spatterdock beds provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat and are not excessive. The floating leaves provide shelter and foraging habitat for species such as bass, making the beds a good place to cast a line.

**Special Condition**

A protected slot limit of 15 to 18 inches for Largemouth Bass is no longer in effect due to the reluctance of anglers to harvest small bass. According to a survey of freshwater anglers, release rates are nearly 100% for Largemouth Bass. The statewide creel limit of 6 bass/day and minimum length of 12'' is in place.



*Largemouth Bass build nests in shallow water, often near woody debris or other structure*



*Yellow Perch are fairly abundant in Derby Pond*

## Access

The boat ramp is located off of Upper King Road (Alternate U.S. 13), southwest of Dover. The parking area can only accommodate one or two boat trailers. The majority of the shoreline is privately owned, thus public access is limited to the shoreline adjacent to the ramp and along the dam.



*The boat ramp is located off of Upper King Rd (Alternate U.S. 13), southwest of Dover.*

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

**When you leave a body of water:**

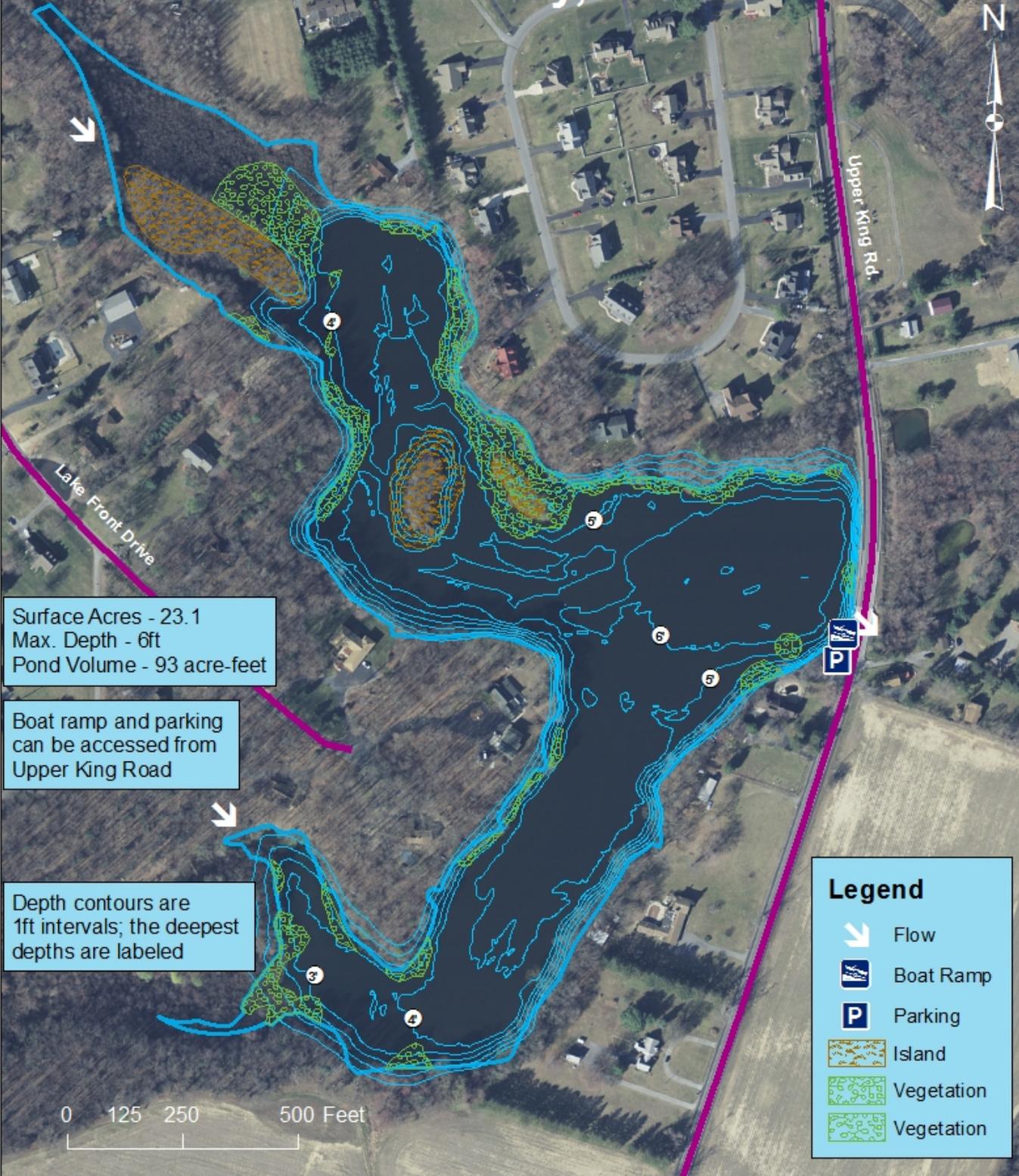
- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of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

*Help us prevent the spread of invasive species*

(see Pond Map on next page)



# Derby Pond Kent County, 2014



Surface Acres - 23.1  
Max. Depth - 6ft  
Pond Volume - 93 acre-feet

Boat ramp and parking  
can be accessed from  
Upper King Road

Depth contours are  
1ft intervals; the deepest  
depths are labeled

**Legend**

- Flow
- Boat Ramp
- Parking
- Island
- Vegetation
- Vegetation

0 125 250 500 Feet