

Tubmill Pond

4.8 acres
Milford, DE

Fish community

This pond is quite small and typically has a correspondingly low abundance of Largemouth Bass. The number of bass observed in 2015 during a fish community assessment conducted by the Division of Fish and Wildlife was lower than that observed when the pond was last sampled in 2010, but higher than historical levels. The majority of bass collected in 2015 were 12-15" which was also the most dominant size group in 2010. Gaps in the size distribution of bass indicate sporadic spawning and growth, although the presence of bass <4" reveals some successful spawning did occur in 2015. Relative weights (measure of condition or 'plumpness') were good for most size groups. Thus, although bass density is low, the majority are of catchable size and in good condition. Bluegill were present in low numbers but young of the year were observed indicating some successful reproduction in 2015. Pumpkinseed were more abundant than Bluegill which is unusual for Delaware's public freshwater ponds. Given the small size of the pond and the limited amount of suitable spawning habitat, it is likely that Bluegill x Pumpkinseed hybrids occur. This is common for species in the *Lepomis* genus and the offspring have a combination of traits from both parent species. American Eel are the most abundant fish species in the pond. Less abundant but also observed during sampling in 2015 were Creek Chubsucker, Brown Bullhead, Golden Shiner, and Chain Pickerel.



Adult Pumpkinseed were observed during a fish community assessment of Tubmill Pond

Vegetation

The pond is shallow which benefits a variety of aquatic vegetation, most notably spatterdock which is present over most of the pond. Spatterdock, also known as 'cow-lily' provides habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. A mix of smartweed and swamp loosestrife occur in the headwater streams. Rooted aquatic vegetation and floating mats of filamentous algae (threadlike strands) become excessive during the summer. The Division of Fish and Wildlife periodically removes the algae with a mechanical harvester to ensure open water for angling and boating. Unfortunately the fast growing algae is persistent and difficult to control for long periods of time. Duckweed and watermeal were often present on the surface of the algal mats.



Spatterdock *Nuphar lutea*

Access

There is some shoreline access on both sides of the ramp, although most of the pond is bordered by private land. There is a boat ramp with a small parking area that can accommodate 3- 4 vehicles.



The boat ramp is located off of Millwood Rd which is accessed from Tub Mill Pond Rd off of southbound Route 1 just north of Milford, DE.



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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.



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(See Pond Map on next page)

