

## WILCOX POND Biddeford Twp., York Co. U.S.G.S. Biddeford, Me. (7.5')

Fishes

Brook trout Minnows Golden shiner Hornpout (bullhead) Banded killifish Threespine stickleback Pumpkinseed sunfish American eel

**Physical Characteristics** 

Area - 3 acres

Maximum depth - 6 feet

Principal fisheries: Brook trout

Wilcox Pond is located in the urbanized and heavily populated city of Biddeford. Wilcox Pond is an impoundment formed by the construction of an 8-foot high dam on a headwater tributary to West Brook. Two small cold-water streams flow into the impoundment, which help maintain cool water temperatures in the pond. These streams historically provided limited spawning habitat for a relic population of wild brook trout. Although brook trout fry production has been documented in both inlet streams there is insufficient spawning and nursery habitat to produce adequate numbers of legal-size trout to satisfy existing angler use. As a result, a brook trout stocking program was initiated by MDIFW in 1960. Legal-size brook trout are currently stocked each spring to maintain the fishery. It may be of interest to note that prior to stocking anglers reported catching an occasional wild brook trout between 14 and 16 inches long. Recent, unconfirmed reports suggest that bass may have been illegally introduced.

Regulations were adopted in 1998 that limit fishing to persons under the age of 16. This measure was undertaken in an effort to increase youth angling opportunities in more densely populated areas within the region. This management program is very popular and has been well received by the angling public.

Traditional access exists on private property located off West Street. Existing public access accommodations are tentative, and considering the popularity of this fishery there is a need to secure long-term public access to this private pond.

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Temperatures: Surface - 69°F 7 feet - 61°F