

3.3 Lakes and Ponds

Lakes and reservoirs provide habitat for wildlife, numerous recreational opportunities, and good quality drinking water. Lakes and ponds collect water from surrounding areas, and the health of the terrestrial ecosystem significantly impacts the water quality. Multiple ponds and reservoirs are located in the Meriden area with varying degrees of depth and size. More information on Connecticut's Lakes can be found on the [CT DEEP website](#).

[CT DEEP](#) uses two classification systems: the trophic state classification and water quality classification. The trophic classification uses the biological productivity of the lake and how that affects lake use. The best trophic classification level is oligotrophic, prime recreation lakes. When a lake's poor oxygen prevents or limits biological productivity and recreational use, it's referred to as eutrophic.

The water quality classification looks at the historical and designated use of the water body. The CT DEEP also categorizes as either Class A or Class B waters. Class A waters are suitable for fishing and swimming though they cannot receive treated wastewater discharges. Class B waters are ideal for fishing and swimming and may receive treated wastewater discharges.

Lakes with a depth of 20 feet or more experience a process called seasonal stratification. In summer, the warm surface water of lakes separates from the cool bottom waters. Shallow ponds have slightly warmer surface waters or uniform temperatures throughout the water body.

Water bodies occur throughout Meriden, and the following section describes the major ones.

Bradley Hubbard Reservoir is part of Meriden's public water supply and is located in Giuffrida Park, one of Meriden's largest parks. The Bradley Hubbard Reservoir Loop surrounds the lake with a 1.6-mile trail. The Western Bradley Hubbard Reservoir Loop is a 2.3-mile trail with scenic views of the lake. The reservoir is open to fishing but requires a permit from the City Of Meriden's Parks and Recreation Department. The reservoir's east side is known for its traprock ridge and talus slopes. This includes Chauncey Peak, which provides a scenic overlook of the reservoir and is traversed by the Mattabesett Trail. The reservoir's west side has pine groves and mixed forest, while the north side is hardwood with talus and heavily featured terrain. The reservoir has a history of algal blooms, and the city installed a floating partition in 2016 to improve the water quality. Heat waves and lack of rain in summers contribute to larger algae blooms.

Hanover Pond is fed by the Quinnipiac River, Sodom Brook, and Harbor Brook. It is located next to Habershon Field. The Hanover Pond Trail runs next to Hanover Pond and Sodom Brook. More information about the Hanover Pond Trail can be found in the Public Access section here and on the [City of Meriden's website](#). Per fishing regulations of DEEP, Hanover Pond is open to fishing for Largemouth Bass, sunfish, and Common Carp. Mussels are resilient in water bodies and frequent Hanover Pond, as noted by [Connecticut Fish and Wildlife](#). Hanover Pond has the invasive European Water Chestnuts, and ORWA hosts volunteer workdays to remove this problem plant.

The 146-acre Silver Lake extends from Berlin to northern Meriden, off of North Colony Road. Per fishing regulations of DEEP, Silver Lake is open to fishing for Calico Bass, Largemouth Bass, Sunfish, Brown Bullhead, Chain Pickerel, and Channel Catfish. The lake has a public boat launch and some wooded borders. For recreation, water-skiing is permitted during the summer. Silver Lake has lilies, several types of pondweeds, and many coontails. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station states that Silver Lake contains the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed. Hydraulic dredging has previously been used to control the Eurasian Watermilfoil. Overgrowing invasive plants in ponds and lakes can prevent recreation, such as paddling and canoeing.

The 31.9-acre Beaver Pond is located next to the Beaver Pond Park and Meriden Dog park and provides Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel, and Black Crappie. The park along the south shore allows for recreation. A railroad track also runs along the western shore of the pond. Beaver Pond's most dominant vegetation comprises coontail and waterweeds. The Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station states that Beaver Pond, like Silver Lake, contains the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil. Overgrowing invasive plants in ponds and lakes can prevent recreation, such as paddling and canoeing.

The 6.4-acre Mirror Lake is in Hubbard Park, one of the city's largest parks, and located right off of Main Street and Mirror Lake Drive. The west shore is lined with lots of trees and natural vegetation, and Hubbard Park also has a swimming pool. Per fishing regulations of DEEP, Mirror Lake is open to fishing for trout, channel catfish, common carp, and sunfish.

Merimere Reservoir is in northeastern Meriden and adjacent to Hubbard Park. When hiking the Merimere Reservoir Loop, the 4.7-mile trail provides a distant glimpse of Castle Craig on East Peak. The trail also goes through Hubbard Park. Trees grow up to the water's edge, including oak and maple. The reservoir is also next to the Hanging Hills.

Baldwins Pond is a small 5-acre pond that empties over a multi-tiered waterfall. It is right next to Baldwin Park and Wilbur Cross Parkway. Per fishing regulations of DEEP, Baldwins Pond is open to fishing for trout, sunfish, and Largemouth Bass. There are several clusters of trees and native vegetation along the southern shore of Baldwins Pond.

Bishops Pond, a lake in southwestern Meriden, is known for sighting birds like the Greater Scaup, Northern Pintail, and Barn Swallow. Bishops Pond is between Pond View Drive and Research Parkway. Bishops Pond is surrounded by shrubs and various trees. Fosters Lake is across Research Parkway from Bishops Pond, nestled between the parkway and I-91. There is a significant buffer of trees and other vegetation between Fosters Lake and I-91.



High Hill Pond is near Mountain Mist Day Camp and High Hill Orchard. It is nestled between agricultural fields and wooded areas. Ives Pond is located near Paddock Avenue and is surrounded by many trees.

Black Pond State Wildlife Area is located in eastern Meriden, right off of East Main Street and CT-66. The pond's surrounding area includes a traprock ridge and a parking area where several trails, a fishing platform, and viewpoints can be accessed. Geese, swans, and ospreys frequent the site. The western shore has numerous native vegetation.

Broad Brook Reservoir, off on Reservoir Road in Cheshire, is stewarded by the city of Meriden and included as part of the City's water supply. It is mostly surrounded by natural vegetation with many trees on the shore.