



Onota Lake, Pittsfield

General Information

Onota Lake is a 653-acre great pond located just beyond the city limits of Pittsfield. Due to its location and accessibility, Onota Lake is heavily used by anglers, swimmers, water skiers, and sailors. The average depth is 21 feet with a maximum of 72 feet and water is transparent to about 17 feet. Aquatic vegetation is abundant and very dense in areas that are less than 10 feet deep, particularly within the coves in the northern portion of the lake. About 25% of the shoreline is protected within the boundaries of a city park and hospital and development is primarily limited to the northeast and southwest ends of the lake.

Recreational Access

There is a double concrete boat ramp (42°27'56.36"N 73°16'46.79"W), fishing pier, and 75-car parking lot located roughly halfway up the eastern shore in Burbank Park off of Valentine Drive. The ramp is managed by the city of Pittsfield and is suitable for virtually any class of trailered boat. Shore fishing is possible near the ramp, off the pier, and in Burbank Park. The fishing pier extends nearly 75 feet into the lake and allows anglers to cast into water as deep as 45 feet. Please contact the city of Pittsfield for additional information and/or restrictions pertaining to public access of Onota Lake.

Fish Populations

The following fish species were found during MassWildlife surveys: Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Chain Pickerel, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redbreast Sunfish, Black Crappie, Rock Bass, Brown Bullhead, White Sucker, Common Carp, Golden Shiner, Banded Killifish, Bluntnose Minnow, Spottail Shiner, Common Shiner, and Rainbow Smelt. There are also occasional reports of Channel Catfish and White Catfish. Onota Lake is also stocked with trout each fall and spring.

Fishing

Onota Lake maintains a layer of cold oxygenated water throughout the warm summer months which enables trout to holdover for multiple seasons. Onota has long been known for its ability to produce trophy Rainbow, Brook, Tiger, and particularly Brown Trout, with fish over 10 lbs being reported. Northern Pike fishing is also very popular. Onota Lake does not produce many pike, but some large fish have been taken in recent years, including a 27 pounder. Anglers tend to concentrate on Northern Pike and trout but fishing for Chain Pickerel, Bass, Perch, and Sunfish can also be very good. Common Carp in the 10 to 20 pound range are also occasionally caught. Onota Lake has produced Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Common Carp, sunfish, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, and Tiger Trout that meet minimum sizes for recognition by the Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program.

Useful Links

[Get your Fishing License](#)

[Freshwater Fishing](#)

[Trout Stocking Information](#)

[Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program](#)

Learn more

Mass.gov/MassWildlife

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Your local

MassWildlife office

88 Old Windsor Road
Dalton MA 01226
(413) 684-1646

STOP AQUATIC HITCHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
ProtectYourWaters.net

Updated: 2016



Onota Lake

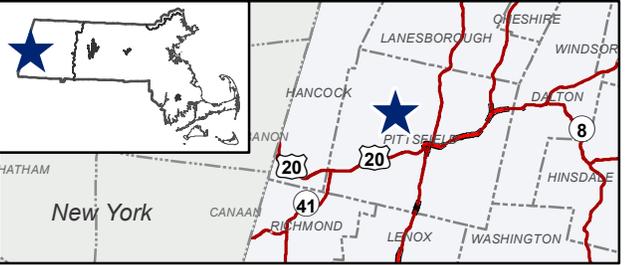
653 Acres

Pittsfield

Housatonic Watershed

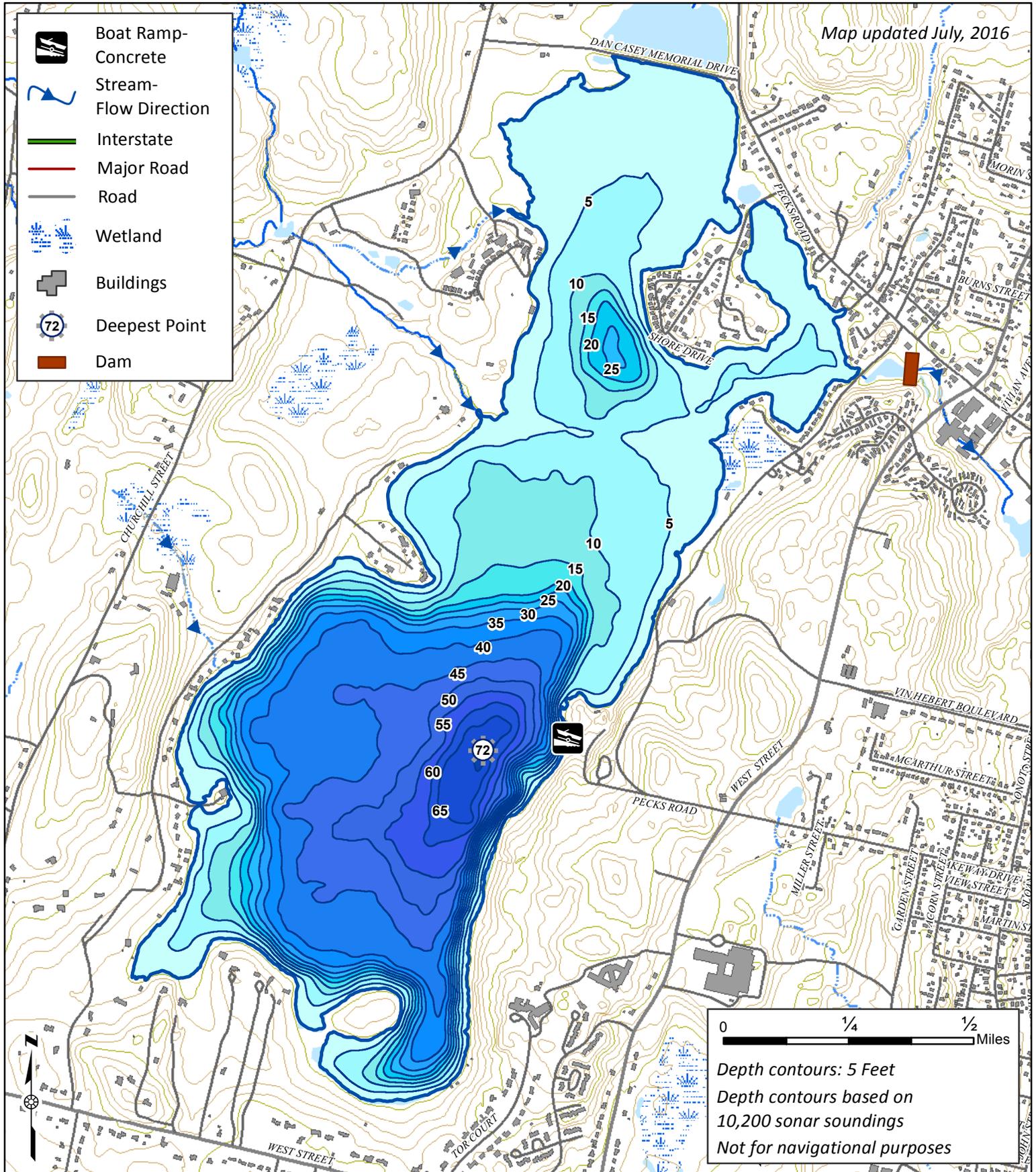
Coordinates: 73°16'42"W 42°28'63"N

USGS Quad: Pittsfield West



Map updated July, 2016

- Boat Ramp
- Concrete
- Stream-Flow Direction
- Interstate
- Major Road
- Road
- Wetland
- Buildings
- Deepest Point
- Dam



0 1/4 1/2 Miles

Depth contours: 5 Feet
 Depth contours based on
 10,200 sonar soundings
 Not for navigational purposes