

# Wildlife in the Lake

## FISH



**Landlocked Salmon** were introduced in the lake in 2006. Adults average 16 to 18 inches in length and 1 to 1.5 pounds but can get up to 3 to 5 pounds. These fish prefer cold water, below 65 degrees. It is common to find them in the deeper parts of the lake. In spring and fall they can be found feeding near the surface or shore.



**Chain Pickerel** are part of the pike family. They can grow up to 2 feet in length and weigh 3 to 4 pounds.

**Bowfin** can be easily mistaken for the northern snakehead. The bowfin lacks bright tiger stripes compared to the snakehead. The bowfin has a black dot on the top near its tail while the snakehead does not. Bowfin can grow up to 20 inches long and weigh 2 to 5 pounds.



**Rainbow Trout** are found in cold-water creeks, lakes and ponds. Adults are distinguished by a broad reddish stripe along their sides, from the gills to the tail. Rainbow trout

prefer to hang around available cover. Weeds, rocks, brush and wood all provide shade and cover for trout to use while feeding or resting.

**Brown Trout** are native to Europe and western Asia but have been widely introduced around the world. Brown trout are very adaptable and can thrive in warmer waters than most other trout. As their name suggests, they are recognized by the light-ringed black spots on the brown body.



**Largemouth Bass** are in the sunfish family and native to the eastern and central United States. Typical coloring is olive-green to greenish-gray, with dark blotches forming a jagged horizontal stripe along the sides. They prefer non-

flowing water with an abundance of vegetation. They are considered one of the most popular game fish in North America. Fishing is permitted and subject to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife regulations [dep.nj.gov/njfw/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/)

## Rules & Safety (for paddlers)

### Life Vests

New Jersey law requires children 12 and under to always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) when on a canoe, kayak or paddleboard. Everyone must wear a PFD from November 1 to May 1 when on a canoe or kayak under 26 feet in length. Please put on your properly fitted PFD before getting into your boat.

### DO NOT STAND UP IN THE BOAT.

**If you capsize** - Swim (do not walk) to shore. Be aware of obstacles below the water, like branches and slippery rocks.

**Hand signals** - Hand up with palm out means STOP! Tap fingers to your head to ask if someone else is OK.

## SWIMMING IS NOT PERMITTED OUTSIDE OF DESIGNATED SWIM AREA

**Keep It Clean and Green:** Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

**EMERGENCY: 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) OR 911**



**WAWAYANDA STATE PARK**  
885 Warwick Turnpike  
Hewitt, NJ 07421  
973-853-4462



State of New Jersey  
Department of  
Environmental Protection  
State Park Service



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# WAWAYANDA STATE PARK

## WAWAYANDA LAKE WATER TRAIL



## INTERPRETIVE TRAIL GUIDE

This self-guided paddle will take you along points of interest on the lake. Beginning and ending at the boat launch, the trip will take approximately 1.5 hours. The boathouse will be open seasonally for rentals. Contact the park office for pricing and availability, 973-853-4462.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Main Dam

Heading east of the boathouse, continue around the cove to see the Main Dam. The dam was constructed by the Ames Company towards the end of The Civil War. This changed two previous ponds (Double Pond) into what is now Wawayanda Lake.

### Scot Island

Scot Island is the first large island after leaving the Main Dam Cove. The island was named after Mr. Scot, who established this area as a YMCA boy scout camp in 1897. Multiple buildings were built on this island but have been torn down since the closing of the camp. There is still a chimney stack visible on the southwest corner of the island.

### Wing Dam

After passing by Scot Island on your left, you will pass into the area of Wing Dam Cove. This dam was constructed as a spillway into Laurel Pond.

### Beech Island

Beech Island or Big Island is the large island towards the middle of the lake. After leaving Wing Dam following the edge of the lake, you will come across the beginning edge of the island. This island was used as a YMCA boy scout camp started by Sumner F. Dudley and George Alden Sanford of Warwick, N.Y.



The Wawayanda Lake Water Trail explores the natural areas of the 255-acre lake. From the boat launch, follow the east side of the lake, circling the second big island, and continuing on the west side of the lake back to the boat launch. There is no marked trail, but a suggested route is drawn on the map.

BIRDS

**Bald eagles** are easily identified by their white heads and tails and 7-foot wingspans. These majestic birds of prey nest along the lake. Their diet consists of fish, carrion and rodents.



**Double-crested cormorants** are medium-to-large birds, with a wingspan of 24 to 40 inches. They have dark feathers and a long hooked bill for catching fish. They are often seen holding their wings out to dry in the sun.

Red-winged blackbirds

The males are glossy black with red “shoulders” bordered with yellow. The females are a sooty brown with a little patch of red on the wing. The male’s loud call can sound like, “Onk-a-ree, onk-a-ree”. They eat insects and seeds.



**Great blue herons** may be seen in shallow waters stalking their prey, which they catch with a stab of their long yellow bills. These large wading birds stand close to 4 feet tall and eat a variety of food including fish, frogs, rodents, crustaceans and small birds.

PLANTS

**Narrowleaf cattail** can grow 3 to 7 feet tall in dense stands. This semi-aquatic perennial is typically found in marshes and shallow areas of rivers, lakes and ponds. These reeds provide food and shelter for many bird and animal species.



**Rhododendron** is an understory shrub often found in moist woodland soils and at the edge of waterways. It forms dense thickets of large evergreen leaves and impressive clusters of showy flowers.



**Waterlilies** are an aquatic plant with roots in the soil, while the leaves and flowers float on or rise above the surface of the water.



MAMMALS

**White-tailed deer** have highly developed senses of smell, sight and hearing. When alarmed, they try to sneak away quietly. If that doesn’t work, they quickly run away, raising their tails as a large warning signal for other deer.



**American black bear** roam throughout the forest and occasionally cross the river. Typically shy of humans, they are solitary and usually active at dawn and dusk. In January, females give birth to one to three cubs while in torpor (deep rest) in their winter dens.

**Muskrats** have thick, brown waterproof hair and a long, naked tail. They live in or near marshes, lakes and ponds. Their diet consists of fish, clams and plants.

