



Welcome to Bashan Lake

Bashan Lake is located in the town of East Haddam in Middlesex County, approximately 24 miles southeast of Hartford and 18 miles west of Norwich.

The lake is natural in origin, but the surface has been raised by a masonry and earthen dam. At the normal surface elevation of 386 feet above sea level, the lake has a surface area of about 265 acres, contains approximately 1.4 billion gallons of water, and has a maximum depth of 47 feet, and an average depth of about 15.5 feet. Bashan Lake receives water from several small streams, and from ground water that enters through the lake bottom. Water flowing out of the lake enters Moodus Reservoir, located to the northeast. For a look at the water depths of Bashan Lake, please see - The Water Depths of Bashan Lake.

The lake bottom consist mostly of sand, gravel, and boulders; along the northern shoreline, the bottom consists primarily of boulders and rock ledge. Organic muck and mud cover some of the flatter bottom areas of the lake. The lake has a watershed area of 1.97 square miles (1,261 acres), which contains approximately 290 acres of low to moderate density residential housing, 353 acres of wetlands and waterways, and 618 acres of farmland and woodland. For a look at the water quality of Bashan Lake, please see - The Water Quality of Bashan Lake.

The shoreline of Bashan Lake is extensively developed with numerous cottages, houses, and private shore facilities. Public access to Bashan Lake is provide at a state owned boat launch area at the southeast end of the lake. The launch area can be reached by taking Exit 16 from Route 2 and proceeding south on Route 149 to Route 151; follow Route 151 south and proceed east on Route 82 for approximately 0.1 miles turning west on to Mount Parnassus Road; follow Mount Parnassus road 1.2 miles turning west onto Ballyhack Road. The launch is 0.9 miles from this turn. For a directional map to Bashan Lake, please see - The Index Map for Bashan Lake.

The area offers a gravel boat launch and parking for 15 vehicles. In addition to the shallow launch conditions, boats must navigate a narrow, risky channel before entering Bashan Lake. There are chemical toilets on a seasonal basis. The shoreline and all islands in Bashan Lake are privately owned. The maximum allowable boat speeds are 35 mph during the day and 8 mph from 9 p.m. until 8 a.m. For a quick look at the facilities of Bashan Lake, please see - A Look at Bashan Lake.

An aquatic survey of Bashan Lake was published in 1987. In general, aquatic vegetation in the lake was sparse, except for several relatively small areas in which dense growth was observed. These areas were predominately in shallow inlets. The vegetation observed included bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.), pondweed (*Potamogeton bicupulatus*), St. Johns wort (*Hypericum boreale*), water milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*, *Myriophyllum humile*), stonewort (*Nitella* sp.), waterweed (*Elodea* sp.) and water moss (*Fontinalis* sp.). For a look at the results of the aquatic vegetation survey of Bashan Lake, please see - The Aquatic Vegetation of Bashan Lake.

