

Keech Pond Rules and Regulations

Boating

- All rules of the road for boating, both Federal and State Laws apply to all owners and operators.
- All row boats, canoes, sail boats and power boats must have lights after dark.
- Boats towing skiers and skiers must remain a reasonable distance from shoreline, except when taking off or returning skier to shore.
- No objects such as rafts, docks, floats, etc. shall be placed more than 50 ft from shore.
- No boats are allowed inside marked swimming areas. Boats will have a small area near beaches to be used for back lot owners.
- Boats being launched from the State ramp will have a limited number of horsepower, governed by regulation.
- All boats are to operate in a **counterclockwise** direction.
- Operators of all watercrafts must comply with the requirements for the type and use of lights when under way from sunset to sunrise.
- All watercraft passing close to designated swimming areas, boats moored, or boats engaged in fishing or similar activities must reduce speed and give way to these people.
- All watercraft shall be operated at reasonable speeds for given situations and shall be under the complete control of the operator at all times.
- Operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.
- No launching from beaches.

Water Skiing

- Any powerboat driver under the age of sixteen (16) years shall be required to complete a boating safety course offered by the State before operating said power craft with greater than 10hp engine on the Pond.
- Towing a water skier without having aboard, in addition to the operator, an observer at least 12 years of age to watch the progress of the skier is prohibited.
- Water skiing between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise is prohibited.
- It is recommended that all skiers must wear Coast Guard approved life jackets or belts.
- Towing skiers in heavily traveled or restricted waters is prohibited.

Personal Watercraft

- All persons on PWC must wear a Coast Guard approved flotation device.
- Lanyard type engine cut-off switch must be attached to operator.
- PWC may not be operated from one half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

- No one may operate PWC at greater than headway speed within 200 ft of swimmers, divers, shore or moored vessels.
- Anyone operating a PWC, regardless of age, must have passed an approved boater education course.

Beaches

- The Pond, Dam and all beaches are owned and controlled by the Property Owners Association. All beach areas have a 30-foot swimming parameter. All swimming is to take place within that parameter. There are no Lifeguards on duty. All swimming is at the participant's own risk.
- There will be no sleeping or camping overnight on beaches without special permission from the Board.
- All beaches must be cleared of all activities by 10:00PM weekdays and 11:00 PM Saturdays and Holidays.
- No automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, ATV's, minibikes or racing carts are allowed on the beaches at any time.
- All rubbish is to be disposed of in proper receptacles or removed by the persons using the beach.
- No person shall use profane language or in any manner annoy other persons or commit disorderly or indecent acts on Association property.
- All lot owners must advise their visitors using these areas of all the rules and, in turn, will be responsible for their actions.
- There will be no open fires on the beaches.

Roads

- No unregistered motor vehicles are allowed on roads or property owned by the Association.
- Damage caused by any type vehicle on roads or property of the Association is the full responsibility of the owners of such vehicle, including motorcycles, mini bikes, ATV's, racing carts, or any other type of powered vehicle.
- Speed limit on all Association roads shall not exceed the posted limit

Dam

- Immediately after Columbus Day the Pond will be lowered. Weather permitting, the water level will be left down for at least 30 days to allow property owners sufficient time for repairs. Water will be allowed to rise and lower during the winter months as it best suits the purpose to kill weeds.
- After the Spring thaw, the water level will be raised to its proper level

3/10"
= 200 FT

Rocks

No Wake
Zone

200 Feet
From Shore

Shallow
Area

46-27-4 Penalties. - Any person who violates any provision of this chapter or who violates any rule or regulation promulgated hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), or imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months for each such violation.

Boat Travel is Counter Clockwise



State Law: No person shall operate a personal watercraft within two hundred feet (200') of swimmers, divers, shore, or moored vessels, except at headway speed. <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE46/46-27/INDEX.HTM>

TITLE 46
Waters and Navigation
CHAPTER 46-27
Personal Watercraft
Safety Act

Visit KeechPond.com for more information and updates.

[RI Boating License Handbook for Online Boater Safety Course \(boat-ed.com\)](#)

[RI Public Boat Launching Sites](#)

[RI Applications and Forms](#)

[RI DEM](#)

Keech Pond & Sand Dam Reservoir Concerning Wake/Ballast Boats

Please be advised that our lakes are too narrow and too shallow to safely operate a wake/ballast boat.

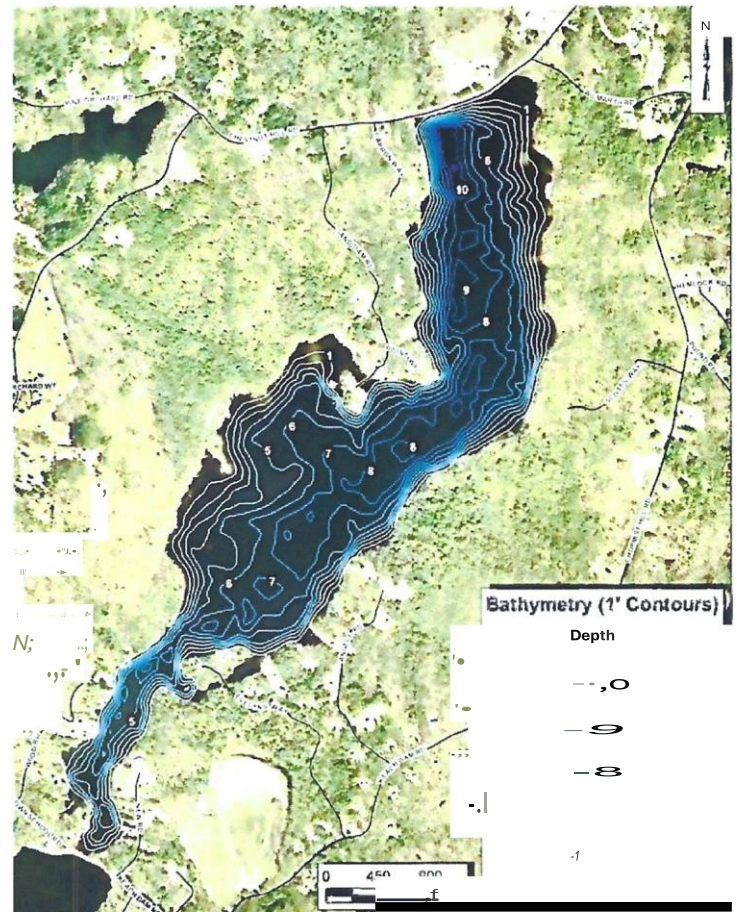
Both human life and the life of our ecosystem are of concern, as well as negative economic impacts.



A wake boat, or ballast boat is a high-powered, low stern motorboat designed to keep the stern low in the water and create waves for surfing. To ensure a low stern, the boats carry water-filled ballast tanks that can add between 2000 and 6000 lbs. Wake boats/ballast boats need deep water and a minimum of 200 ft. from the shoreline on both sides to safely operate.

Water quality/ecosystem Issues: The pitch angle of these boats generates enormous amounts of prop wash which scours the lake bottom and damages habitats, creates cloudy water, and releases nutrients, and can cause algae blooms. Habitat and plant destruction threaten native wildlife.

Aquatic Invasive Species threat: Wake boats do not drain fully and are known to be capable of acting as a vector for the introduction of exotic Aquatic Invasive Species.



SMITH AND SAYLES RESERVOIR

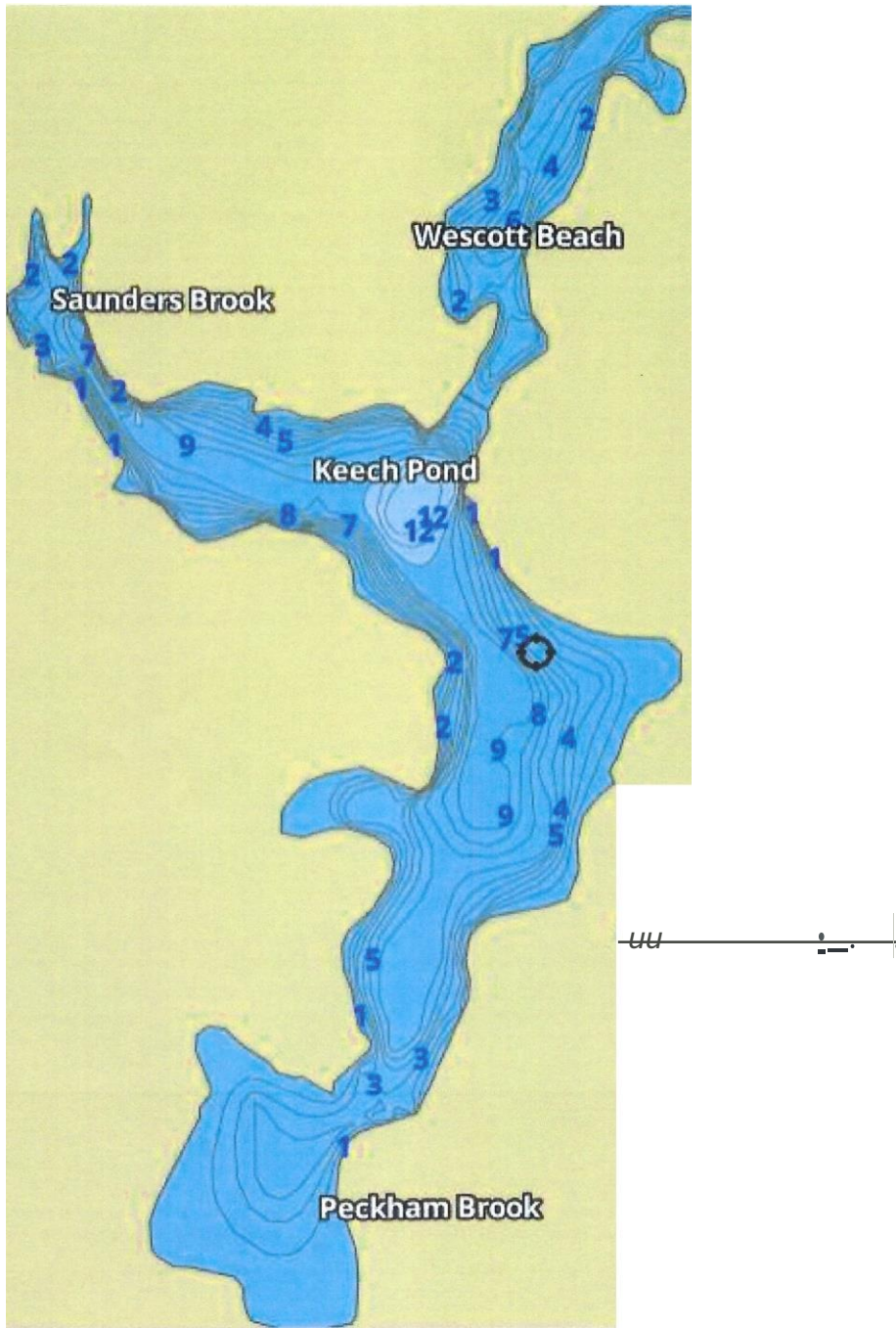
Bathymetry of

Personal Safety: Wake/ballast boats pose a safety concern for other boaters and swimmers because of the high energy waves they produce.

Economic impacts: Damage from waves affects the shoreline through erosion, and can damage docks,

ESS Map: Clearly shows that our bodies of water too shallow and too narrow to support wake/ballast boats.

See Keech Pond Depths Guide



Keech Pond Depth Locations in Feet