

## Clear Softwater Lake/Pond

MNHESP State Rank: Unranked

### PHYSICAL

**Hydrology** Ponded with water depth exceeding 2 m (6.5 ft).

**Soil** Inundated, with mineral and organic substrate.

**Topography** Located in drainage basins.

**Elevation** Usually occurring between 448 and 622 m (1470 and 2041 ft) in Berkshire County.

**Form** Lakes in areas with acidic bedrock such as schist or gneiss. Shorelines sometimes abruptly transitioning to upland communities. Exposed bedrock or coarse mineral soil is a common shoreline substrate.

### DOMINANT PLANT SPECIES<sup>1</sup>

**Canopy** Absent.

**Subcanopy** Absent.

**Shrubs** Absent.

**Herbs** Water lobelia, spiny-spored quillwort, grass-leaved arrowhead, common pipewort, narrow-leaved bur-reed, snail-seed pondweed, alga pondweed, Oakes pondweed, and yellow water-lily.

**Climbing Plants** Absent.

**Bryophytes** Largely absent.

**Notes** Many aquatic plants have a rosette growth form.

### COMMON ANIMAL SPECIES<sup>2</sup>

**Mammals** Snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer, porcupine, American beaver, coyote, mink, fisher, black bear, and river otter.



**Birds** Swallows and waterfowl.

**Herpetiles** Eastern newt and green frog.

**Fish** Unknown.

**Invertebrates** Crayfish.

**Notes** Few surveys performed in summer season.

### CONSERVATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND NOTES

**MNHESP State Rank** Unranked.

**Rare Species** None observed.

**Distribution in MA** Unknown.

**Distribution in the Study Area** Several occurrences in October Mountain State Forest and nearby highland areas.

**Variation** None observed.

**Synonyms** Lacustrine Open Water, Lacustrine Aquatic Bed, Lacustrine Unconsolidated Bottom (Cowardin *et al.* 1979).

### REFERENCES

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deep Water Habitats of the United States. U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>1</sup> Scientific names provided in Attachment F.

<sup>2</sup> Scientific names provided in Attachment C.