



**Town of Greenwich**  
**Department of Parks & Recreation - Facilities**  
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## **POND AT CAROLINE PLACE**

Location:

Size: 20.0 acres (part of Byram River)

Hr. of Operation:

Parking: along Dale Dr. and Halock Drive

Facilities: No Equipment

### **The Caroline Place Pond**

The Caroline Place Pond was acquired by the Town of Greenwich from its previous owners in the 1970's by default in the payment of taxes. The pond is part of the Byram River in the Pemberwick section of Greenwich near the New York border. The Byram River, which has its source in Byram Lake in Southeastern New York, flows generally south, discharging into Long Island Sound in Portchester Harbor. It is approximately 13.5 miles long, and its widest portion is between Upland Street and Hobart Avenue paralleling Caroline Place and Pemberwick Road.

The 20 - acre was excavated in the 1930's and 1940's and much of the gravel was used for construction of the Merritt Parkway. Prior to the excavation of the pond, the river was a small meandering stream approximately 15 feet in width in wet periods of the year, only three to five in dry periods. The area where the pond was excavated was a former meadow remembered by older residents for its native grasses and seasonal meadow flowers.

In 1955, back-to-back hurricanes "Connie" and "Diane" brought enormous flooding, erosion and property damage along the Byram River. Three houses were completely destroyed in the Halock Drive area alone. As a result, the Federal government and the Army Corps Of Engineers began an extended flood prevention project from the dam north of Comly Avenue past Halock Drive. Work began in 1959 and was completed in 1962. The extensive construction project of transition walls, levees, and riprap slopes alleviated flooding problems and stabilized the river and pond.

The area has been largely preserved in a natural state and is a productive habitat for many different species of small mammals, fish and birds. Belted Kingfishers are year round residents and are frequently observed perched on pondside limbs as they hunt for small fish. The large willows around the pond are favored by colorful Northern Orioles and Yellow Warblers as nest sites during May, June, and July. In winter the pond supports numbers of mallards, black Ducks, and an occasional Pintail and Ring-necked duck.

Access to the pond and river along Caroline Place is difficult because of steep slopes, but to the east bank, especially along Dale Drive and Halock Drive can be readily used. Neighborhood residents use the pond in the summer months for small boats and windsurfing, and although the pond is extremely dangerous, people still use it for ice-skating in the wintertime.

*Frank Keegan*