

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Frauensee is a lake situated around 10km south east of Königs Wusterhausen in the Dahme Lake District, an area which has many lakes. It is part of the Dahme Heathland Lakes Nature Park.

The 920m long, almost rectangular lake has a water surface area of 16.1ha. On average it is 150m wide with a maximum depth of around 8m. However, in large areas the lake is considerably flatter, as layers of thick sediment have accumulated here.

The lake is completely surrounded by pine forest and is fed by groundwater. At the northern tip the lake once had an outflow, which led into Dolgensee lake via the “Langes Luch” (a stream). As Frauensee, as with most groundwater-fed lakes in Brandenburg, has long suffered from a fall in its level due to the fall in groundwater levels, the outflow closed up in the 1980's.

In 1950 a central camp for the Pioneers (the East German youth organisation) was built on the northern shore and was known as the “Pionierlager Kalinin”. Today, the camp, which is 14ha in size, has been taken over by the “Kinder- und Erholungszentrum (“KiEZ”) Frauensee”, a child recreation centre, and has a capacity of 850 beds.

Frauensee was studied in 1994 and was at that time classified as very nutrient rich. How much the situation has now improved through the use of water treatment technology remains to be seen. At the moment water transparency levels at the bathing area are still very low at between 0.4 and 0.8m during the season.

The shore of Frauensee is surrounded by deciduous woodland which adjoins a reed belt around the edge of the water. The extent of the reed bed has increased in recent years. There is no underwater vegetation in Frauensee. Besides indigenous species of fish there are old stocks of grass carp.

Not far from Frauensee there is the Brandenburg “Haus des Waldes” (or “Forest House”), which was founded in 1978 and is therefore among the oldest and long-standing forest nature protection centres in Germany. It offers diverse range of education about forests.

The “KiEZ Frauensee” bathing area, which is tested every four weeks by the local Office for Health as per the Brandenburg Bathing Water Regulations, there were no exceedances of single values of the microbiological parameters e.coli and intestinal enterococci. Blooms of blue-green algae have not been observed.

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Sources

Ute Handke, retired local forester

Wikipedia

www.haus-des-waldes.info