

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Grosser Tonteich, also known as Körbiskruger Tonsee, is a lake situated around 5km south of Königs Wusterhausen in the Dahme Lake District, an area which has many lakes. Unlike the Kleiner Tonteich situated due south, Grosser Tonteich is not part of the Dahme Heathland Lakes Nature Park. Both the Grosser and Kleiner Tonteich were clay pits created around 1900, when large quantities of building materials were needed in up-and-coming Berlin. The clay was fired on site in brick factories next to the clay pits. The remains of the railway embankment of the line built especially for the transport of bricks is still visible.

Grosser Tonteich has a surface area of 14.8ha, the maximum depth is around 16m. In the summer stable temperature layering occurs.

Due to its curved shape, it encloses a large peninsula in the west, which is used as a nudist beach. In the south east there is a 4ha nudist camping site. Thus, the Grosser Tonteich forms the largest nudist area in Brandenburg.

In the south, east and north pine forest borders onto the lake. In the west the Neu Kamerun bungalow estate, a district of Körbiskrug, extends right up to the lake. The reed belt is only narrowly pronounced, due to the shore which falls away steeply.

The Grosser Tonteich is connected to the considerably smaller Kleiner Tonteich via a channel. Its outflow in the north west leads into Zeesener See lake.

Clay pit lakes, particularly when they are still new, are usually clear, nutrient-poor bodies of water, as they are fed by groundwater and are usually deep enough for stable temperature layering to occur in summer. In addition, the clay substrata can bond with nutrients to a certain extent.

However, in a study carried out in the middle of the 1990's Grosser Tonsee near Körbiskrug was categorised as nutrient-rich. In the past it suffered from insufficient water treatment in the neighbouring residential areas. Now there is a connection to the main sewage treatment network and the state of Grosser Tonsee has improved. Water transparency levels today are constantly above 2m at the bathing area during the season. Divers have reported visibility ranges of over 5m.

The "Bestensee" bathing area at Grosser Tonteich, 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.

Text: Kerstin Wöbbbecke, enviteam office

Sources:

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