

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Tonsee is a clay pit lake near Klein Köris and is situated around 15km south of Königs Wusterhausen in the Teupitz Lake District. It belongs to the Dahme Heathland Lake Nature Park.

The extraction of clay was begun in around 1860. The clay was made into bricks in the nearby brick works of Klein Köris and then shipped to Berlin via the Teupitz-Köris Lake Chain. In Berlin there was a building boom between the middle and end of the 19th century, for which bricks, sand, and wood were brought in from the surrounding areas. For Klein Köris, as with many other parishes, this led to an economic upswing. In 1900 the Klein Köris clay pit was closed and it filled up with groundwater. Today, divers are able to find the left overs of clay extraction on the lake bed – old tracks, rusted wagons, a pumping station, and a wooden shaft tower.

Tonsee consists of two basins which are only connected to each other by a narrow strait. Together they have a surface area of 9.0ha. As with most clay pits the sides fall away steeply. The maximum depth is around 19m. During the summer stable temperature layering forms.

Tonsee is surrounded by pine forest. In the south there is a small camping site under the pine trees. In the east there is a larger camping site. Klein Köris is around 300m from the lake.

Clay pit lakes, in particular when they are still new, are mainly clear, nutrient-poor lakes, as they are fed by groundwater and are mainly deep enough so that stable temperature layering forms during the summer. In addition, the clay substrata can bond with nutrients to a certain extent.

However, in research carried out in the middle of the 1990's, Tonsee near Klein Köris was categorised as being moderately nutrient-rich. In the past it suffered due to the waste water from the adjoining residential areas being insufficiently treated. These areas have now been connected to the main sewage system and the state of Tonsee has now improved. Today, the water transparency levels at the bathing area are constantly above 1m during the season. Divers report transparency levels of over 6m.

The reed population only features a narrow strip, as the sides of the lake fall away steeply.

The entire Teupitz Lake District is used intensively by recreational users. Tonsee, which may not be used by motorboats, is popular among bathers due to its clear water. Divers also like to visit the lake - on the one hand due to the good transparency levels and on the other due to the underwater wrecks dating back to the time of clay extraction.

The "Gross Köris OT Klein Köris" 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

Blum, Roger: Der Tonsee – Relikt des Berliner Baubooms. - Adlershofer Flossenblätter 53/2003, newsletter of the Tauchsportklub Adlershof e.V. Berlin

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