



## Connecticut

# Mansfield Hollow Lake Dam

Mansfield Hollow Lake lies within the boundaries of Mansfield and Windham, 25 miles east of Hartford. The dam-site is located on the Natchaug River. From Hartford, Mansfield Hollow Lake can be reached by taking Interstate 84 to Route 195 south. The dam consists of earthfill with stone slope protection. It has a length of 14,050 feet and a height of 68 feet. The project also consists of six earthfill dikes with stone slope protection that total 2,656 feet in length and have a maximum height of 53 feet. A concrete spillway spans the main channel of the Natchaug River with a concrete weir 690 feet long. The weir's elevation is 16 feet lower than the top of the dam. There are five gated rectangular conduits five feet six inches wide and seven feet high that vary in length up to 26 feet.

The project provides substantial flood protection for the Shetucket River communities of Norwich, South Windham, Baltic, Occum, Taftville, and Willimantic.

Construction of the dam began in 1949 and was completed in May 1952. The cost of the project was \$6.5 million.

The lake at Mansfield Hollow stretches over 450 acres through Mansfield, Windham, and Chaplin. It has a maximum depth of 16.5 feet. The flood storage area of the project, which is normally empty and is only utilized to store floodwaters, totals 1,880 acres and extends about three miles up the Natchaug River, 2.3 miles up the Mount Hope River, and 3.2 miles up the Fenton River. The project and associated lands cover 2,581 acres. Mansfield Hollow Lake can store up to 8.3 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 6.1 inches of water covering its drainage area of 159 square miles.

The state of Connecticut manages Mansfield Hollow Lake, which is becoming an increasingly popular recreational attraction. On a graceful, pine-covered bluff overlooking the broad expanse of water, picnic tables and fireplaces for both families and large groups are available. Many acres of open field lie adjacent to the bluff and may be used for softball, touch football, volleyball, and other team sports and group activities. A 4.5-mile walking/cross-country skiing trail leads through former pastures and the stone foundation remnants of former homesteads. The persistent hiker may find evidence of habitation by the Nipmuck Tribe. Other park facilities include a boat ramp, drinking water, and parking and sanitary areas.

The lake provides excellent boating for sailboats, canoes, and small power boats. Fishermen can expect to find trout, bass, horned pout, and perch. In-season hunting of pheasant, quail, partridge, and small game animals is also permitted.

Guests at Mansfield Hollow Lake may wish to visit the village of Mansfield Hollow, located adjacent to the dam. This area has been designated a State Historic District and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its unique characterization of a 19th century rural village.