



Connecticut Thomaston Dam

Thomaston Dam is located in Thomaston on the Naugatuck River, the major tributary of the Housatonic River. It is about one mile north of Thomaston on Route 222. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 142 feet high and 2,000 feet long; a gated 455-foot horseshoe shaped concrete conduit 10 feet in diameter; and a side channel spillway edged in rock with a 435-foot-long concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 23 feet lower than the top of the dam.

Thomaston Dam provides flood protection in the highly industrialized and densely populated Naugatuck Valley. It is the largest and most important flood control dam in the Naugatuck River system.

Construction started in May 1958 and was completed in November 1960. The work required relocation of portions of Routes 8 and 222 (Blakeman Road), several town roads, and a portion of the Devon Branch of the Conrail railroad. Project costs were \$14.3 million.

There is no lake at the Thomaston Dam. The flood storage area of the project, which is normally empty and is only utilized to store floodwaters, covers 960 acres. The project and associated lands total 1,288 acres, of which 1,000 are wooded. These lands extend into the towns of Litchfield, Harwinton, and Plymouth. Thomaston Dam can store up to 13.69 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 8.1 inches of water covering its drainage area of 97.2 square miles.

There is a 25-mile trail system for snowmobiles and two-wheel trail bikes on the Thomaston Dam lands. Fishing enthusiasts will find that Leadmine Brook, a tributary of the Naugatuck River that flows near the dam, is stocked with brown, brook, and rainbow trout. In-season hunting for stocked pheasant and native small game is permitted. Overlook and picnic areas offer an excellent view of the dam and portions of the Naugatuck River Valley. Fireplaces and parking and sanitary facilities are also available.