



## Massachusetts

# Buffumville Lake

The dam at Buffumville Lake lies across the Little River in Charlton, about eight miles northeast of Southbridge and 50 miles southwest of Boston. From Worcester, the dam can be reached travelling south on U.S. Route 395 to exit 4B, then two miles on Charlton Street.

In conjunction with Hodges Village Dam, Buffumville Lake reduces flood levels on the French River in Oxford, Webster, and Dudley, Massachusetts, and Thompson, Connecticut. Buffumville Lake also helps to reduce flooding extending downstream from Putnam, Connecticut, on the Quinebaug River to Norwich, Connecticut, on the Thames River.

Construction of Buffumville Lake started in September 1956 and was completed in June 1958, costing \$3 million.

The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 3,255 feet long and 66 feet high; a 610 foot long earthfill dike with a maximum elevation of 15 feet; three gated rectangular conduits, each three feet wide, four feet six inches high, and 44 feet long; and a spillway cut in rock with a concrete weir 220 feet long. The weir's crest elevation is 15 feet lower than the top of the dam.

Buffumville Lake contains a 200-acre recreation pool one mile long with a depth at the dam of 11 feet. The flood storage area of the project totals 530 acres and extends about 1.7 miles upstream on the Little River's main stem and about 1.9 miles upstream on the Little River's south branch in Charlton and Oxford. The flood storage area is normally empty and utilized only to store floodwaters. The lake and all associated project lands cover 753 acres. Buffumville Lake can store up to 3.68 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to nine inches of water covering its drainage area of 26.5 square miles.

A 50 acre public park within the reservoir grounds is operated by the Corps of Engineers. The park offers a beach area, 45 picnic tables, 30 fireplaces, a boat ramp, picnic shelter, bathhouse, drinking water, and parking and sanitary facilities. Native pickerel, bass, horned pout, and a variety of panfish challenge sportsmen in the 200-acre lake.