



Massachusetts

East Brimfield Lake

The dam at East Brimfield Lake is located on the Quinebaug River in Sturbridge, about 20 miles southwest of Worcester and 23 miles east of Springfield. From the Massachusetts Turnpike, the project can be reached by taking exit nine, then west on U.S. Route 20 for 2.5 miles.

In conjunction with the dam at Westville Lake, the dam at East Brimfield Lake substantially reduces flood damages in Southbridge and Dudley, Massachusetts, and Putnam, Danielson, Jewett City, and Norwich, Connecticut. These communities are predominant industrial and business centers on the Quinebaug River.

Construction of East Brimfield Lake began in May 1958 and was completed in June 1960, costing \$7.1 million. Town roads and portions of U.S. Route 20 were relocated.

The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 520 feet long and 55 feet high; a 210 foot long gated horseshoe conduit with a diameter of 10 feet six inches; and a chute spillway excavated in rock with a 75 foot long concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 19 feet lower than the top of the dam.

There is a recreation pool at East Brimfield Lake that is 13 feet deep at the dam and covers an area of 450 acres. The American Optical Company of Southbridge can withdraw water from the reservoir as long as the reservoir does not drop below a minimum depth of nine feet. The flood storage area of the project covers 2,270 acres and extends about 5.5 miles upstream through Holland and seven miles upstream through Brimfield. This area is normally empty and utilized only to store floodwaters. The lake and all associated project lands cover 2,716 acres. East Brimfield Lake can store up to 9.74 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 8.3 inches of water covering its drainage area of 67.5 square miles.

There are 1,480 acres of land and 590 surface acres of water available for recreational use within the project area.

The East Brimfield Lake reservoir is 450 surface acres and lies behind the dam. Along its shore, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management manages Streeter Point Beach, which has a sandy beach area, a picnic area with 40 picnic tables and 10 fireplaces, a grassy area, drinking water, and parking and sanitary facilities. Holland Pond is a 65-acre natural lake about seven miles upstream of the dam. Lost Lake, about one mile north of Holland Pond, is about 15 acres and is managed by the Corps as a primitive group camping area (permits are required). About two acres of land have been developed for group camping purposes with fishing and canoeing permitted.

There are three boat ramps for canoeing, sailing, and water skiing. Two boat ramps are located on the East Brimfield Lake reservoir one on Route 20 east, the other across the street on Route 20 west. The third boat ramp is located on

Holland Pond and marks the start of the designated seven-mile canoe trail over flat water, ending at the boat ramp on Route 20 east.

The state stocks trout in the reservoir at East Brimfield Lake. Native bass, pickerel, perch, northern pike, and horned pout can also be found. Of special note is the record northern pike caught through the ice in January 1987. The 34 pound, 45 inch long fish captured the state pike record and the record for the largest freshwater fish caught with a hook and line in Massachusetts. Hunters will find state-stocked small pheasant and native rabbit, squirrel, and deer.