



## Massachusetts

# Hodges Village Dam

Hodges Village Dam in Oxford lies across the French River, about ten miles south of Worcester. From Worcester, visitors can reach the dam by taking U.S. Route 395 south to exit 413, one half mile on Sutton Street, one half mile on Charlton Street, right on Howarth Road.

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

Construction of Hodges Village Dam was initiated in March 1958 and completed in December 1959, costing \$4.5 million. Portions of both Route 12 and a railroad track were relocated. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 2,140 feet long and 55 feet high; four earthfill dikes with stone slope protection totaling 2,600 feet in length with a maximum elevation of 16 feet; two gated rectangular concrete conduits, each six feet high, five feet wide, and 206 feet long; and a chute spillway cut in rock, with a 125-foot-long concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 19 feet lower than the top of the dam.

There is no lake at Hodges Village Dam. The flood storage area of the project, which is normally empty and is only utilized to store floodwaters, covers 740 acres and extends upstream about three miles. The entire project, including all associated lands, covers 1,137 acres. Hodges Village Dam can store up to 4.17 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to eight inches of water covering its drainage area of 31.1 square miles.

Hodges Village Dam features a streamside environment with 676 acres available for various types of recreation. The Greenbriar Recreation Area, which is managed by the Town of Oxford, has tennis courts and ball fields. The Corps manages a trail system for hiking, horseback riding, trail bikes, snowmobiles, and cross-country skiing. Parking and sanitary facilities are available. Located at the downstream base of the dam and not part of the project, Auguttaback Pond offers warm water fishing for native bass, horned pout, and perch. A parking area and a canoe launch access point are provided by the Corps.