



## Massachusetts Knightville Dam

Knightville Dam is located on the Westfield River in Huntington. From Westfield, it can be reached traveling west on U.S. Route 20 to Huntington, then north on Route 112.

In conjunction with the dam at Littleville Lake, Knightville Dam provides flood protection to Huntington, Westfield, West Springfield, and other communities on the Westfield River. Knightville Dam also helps to reduce damages along the main stem of the Connecticut River.

Construction of the project began in August 1939 and was completed in December 1941 at a cost of \$3.3 million. Route 112 was relocated to accommodate the project. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection measuring 1,200 feet long and 160 feet high; a gated circular concrete conduit founded on bedrock 605 feet long with a diameter of 16 feet; and a curved chute spillway cut in rock with a 410-foot-long concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 20 feet lower than the top of the dam.

There is no lake at Knightville Dam. The flood storage area of the project covers 960 acres and extends about six miles upstream through Huntington and Chesterfield. It is normally empty and utilized only to store floodwaters. The project and all associated lands cover 2,688 acres. Knightville Dam can store up to 15.97 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 5.6 inches of water covering its drainage area of 162 square miles.

There are 2,430 acres at Knightville Dam available for various types of recreation. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MFW) manages 296 acres of predominantly open land under a lease agreement. MFW management activities include the stocking of fish and game birds and the designation of a catch and release area in the Westfield River adjacent to Indian Hollow Camping Area. A most popular recreational facility, the Indian Hollow Camping Area is available by permit to organized groups. Located on the East Branch of the Westfield River, Indian Hollow offers streamside campsites, 30 picnic tables and 30 fireplaces, a small amphitheater, hot showers, drinking water, and parking and sanitary facilities. There is an eight-mile trail for snowmobiling and a six-mile trail for horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Both trails are available for hiking and nature study. There is also a picnic area on the knoll below the dam with six tables and six fireplaces, a picnic shelter, and a separate picnic area on top of the dam with three tables and three fireplaces. Canoeing is permitted.

The river and tributary streams in the project area offer excellent trout fishing and are surrounded by prime upland game habitat. Brook, brown, and rainbow trout are stocked in the Little River and the East Branch of the Westfield River. Native bass can also be found. Knightville Dam offers in season hunting of stocked pheasant and native wild turkey, deer, bear, coyote, and fox in accordance with Massachusetts laws and regulations.