



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

## Massachusetts Tully Lake

The dam at Tully Lake in Royalston lies across the East Branch of the Tully River. From Athol, it can be reached traveling three miles north on Route 32.

In conjunction with Birch Hill Dam, Tully Lake provides flood protection to Athol, Orange, and other communities on the Millers River. Tully Lake also helps to reduce damages along the main stem of the Connecticut River.

Construction of the dam was initiated in March 1947 and completed in September 1949. Routes 32 and a power transmission line were relocated. The cost of the project was \$1.7 million. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 1,570 feet long and 62 feet high; a gated concrete circular tunnel 274 feet long with a diameter of six feet; and a concrete chute spillway cut in rock with a 255-foot concrete weir. The weir's crest elevation is 16 feet lower than the top of the dam.

Tully Lake contains a recreation pool that fluctuates seasonally. From the spring until the fall, the lake has a maximum depth of 16 feet and covers 300 acres. From fall to spring, the pool is drawn down to a depth of 11 feet. The flood storage area of the project totals 1,130 acres and stretches into Athol. This area is empty most of the time and is utilized only to store floodwaters. The lake and all associated project lands cover 1,263 acres. Tully Lake can store up to 7.17 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 8.3 inches of water covering its drainage area of 50 square miles.

The project has two picnic areas. The first, at the overlook on top of the dam, contains two picnic tables and two grills. The second, located immediately below the dam, has 10 picnic tables, five grills, a picnic shelter, a boat ramp, and sanitary and parking facilities. Canoes, rowboats, sailboats, and boats with 10 horsepower or electric motors are permitted on Tully Lake and Long Pond, which is situated on project lands immediately north of Tully Lake. Reservoir lands are also used for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Tully Lake and Long Pond offer warm water fishing for native bass, pickerel, perch and bullhead. Ice fishing is permitted on Tully Lake. The East Branch of the Tully River provides stream fishing and is stocked by the state with rainbow trout. There is hunting in season for native pheasant, deer, and small game, such as rabbit.

Although they are not on project lands, three nearby waterfall areas are popular with visitors - Doanes Falls on Lawrence Brook (accessible by car off Doane Hill Road); Spirit Falls on Spirit Brook (accessible by canoe on Long Pond or by hiking); and Royalston Falls on Falls Brook (accessible on Falls Road off Route 68).

The Tully Campground is leased to and operated by The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). The campground has 35 sites, a comfort station with waterborne toilets and showers. Visitors may rent canoes and kayaks.

---

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT  
696 VIRGINIA ROAD, CONCORD, MA 01742-2751  
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>