



Vermont

North Springfield Lake

The dam at North Springfield Lake in Springfield is located on the Black River, about 8.5 miles upstream of the confluence of the Black and Connecticut rivers. From Springfield, visitors can reach the dam by traveling north on Route 106 to Reservoir Road.

The project provides flood protection to Springfield, and in conjunction with other Corps dams and reservoirs in the Connecticut River Basin, reduces flood damages to Connecticut River communities situated downstream.

Construction of North Springfield Lake began in May 1958 and was completed in November 1960 at a cost of \$6.8 million. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 2,940 feet long and 120 feet high; a 659-foot-long gated concrete horseshoe conduit with a diameter of 12 feet nine inches; and a spillway cut in rock with a 384-foot-long concrete ogee weir. The weir's crest elevation is 24.5 feet lower than the top of the dam. Approximately three miles upstream of the dam is Stoughton Pond, situated on the North Branch of the Black River in Weathersfield. The pond is impounded by an embankment, which was the site of Route 22 before North Springfield Lake was built. The embankment is 900 feet long and was raised to a height of 75 feet by the Corps. Under this embankment the Corps constructed a 300-foot-long circular metal conduit with a diameter of eight feet, and an earthen spillway with a 200-foot-long broad-crested weir. The weir's crest elevation is two feet lower than the top of the embankment. The work involved the construction of 3.8 miles of relocated roads and highway, and the relocation of a 150-grave cemetery.

North Springfield Lake has a permanent pool of 100 acres with a depth of about 15 feet (Stoughton Pond has a permanent pool of about 65 acres with a maximum depth of about 20 feet). The flood storage area of the project totals 1,200 acres and extends 5.4 miles upstream through Weathersfield. The project and associated lands cover 1,755 acres. North Springfield Lake can store up to 16.7 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 5.9 inches of water covering its drainage area of 158 square miles.

The reservoir area of North Springfield Lake offers a myriad of recreational opportunities. It includes two recreation areas: the Stoughton Pond Recreation Area, located adjacent to Stoughton Pond, and the recreation area behind the main dam. The Stoughton Pond Recreation Area offers 30 picnic tables and 20 fireplace grills; a picnic shelter; swimming on a 200-foot-long beach; a 1/3-mile-long marked hiking trail; a change house; drinking water; and sanitary facilities. The recreation area behind the main dam offers an eight-mile-long marked cross-country skiing/snowmobile trail and several miles of gravel road suitable for hiking. About 70 acres of the recreation area behind the main dam is leased to the Audubon Society, which has a marked hiking trail system known as the Springweather Nature Area covering 55 acres. Boating (power boats limited to 5 mph) is permitted throughout the North Springfield Lake reservoir area, and boat ramps are available in both recreation areas. Also popular at North Springfield Lake are horseback riding, model airplane flying, and snowshoeing. History buffs will enjoy an 18th century military road (Crown Point

Road) that passes through the project. Either Reservoir Road or Route 106 will get visitors between the two recreation areas.

North Springfield Lake has developed into one of the best largemouth bass lakes in southeastern Vermont. Smallmouth bass, horned pout, sunfish, and dace are also native to the 100-acre lake. Rainbow trout are stocked by the state behind Stoughton Pond Dam. There is also fishing for native brook trout throughout the project's five miles of streams. In-season hunting and trapping are permitted throughout the reservoir area for native deer, fox, duck, woodcock, squirrel, grouse, and raccoon.