



Vermont

Union Village Dam

Union Village Dam in Thetford is situated on the Ompompanoosuc River, four miles above its confluence with the Connecticut River and 11 miles north of White River Junction. From White River Junction, the dam can be reached by traveling U.S. Route 5 north to Route 132 west then following signs to the project.

Union Village Dam provides flood protection to the Union Village section of Thetford, Norwich, and the White River Junction and Wilder Village sections of Hartford. It also reduces flood damage in the New Hampshire communities of Hanover and West Lebanon. In conjunction with other Corps dams and reservoirs in the Connecticut River Basin, Union Village Dam reduces flood damages in communities situated downstream on the Connecticut River.

Construction of Union Village Dam began in March 1946 and was completed in June 1950 at a cost of \$4.1 million. The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 1,100 feet long and 170 feet high; a gated 1,167-foot-long circular concrete conduit with a diameter of 13 feet; and a chute spillway cut in rock with a 388-foot-long concrete ogee weir. The weir's crest elevation is 20 feet lower than the top of the dam. Approximately two miles of highway were relocated to accommodate the project.

There is no lake at Union Village Dam except during the winter, when a 50-acre lake with a depth of 20 feet is maintained to keep the floodgates from freezing. The flood storage area of the project totals 740 acres and extends 3.5 miles upstream. The project and associated lands cover 979 acres. Union Village Dam can store up to 12.4 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 5.65 inches of water covering its drainage area of 126 square miles.

Union Village Dam has one covered picnic shelter, which can hold up to 100 adults and has a large grill and electrical outlets directly inside its main gate. The shelter can be reserved for a fee, or used free of charge if unreserved on a first come, first serve basis. There are also several uncovered picnic tables with adjacent grills that are available for no charge on a first come, first serve basis in this area. Drinking water, sanitary facilities, a volleyball net, horseshoe pit and small playground are all nearby. There are also five small picnic areas located on Buzzell Bridge Road, a 3.1 mile long road that runs through the project, behind the Union Village Dam. The sites are identified with signs, and are known as Area One, Area Two, The Chutes, Mystery Trail, and Sandy Beach. Area One, Area Two, The Chutes, and Sandy Beach all have chemical toilets, and picnic tables and grills are available at the Area One, Area Two, Mystery Trail and Sandy Beach sites at no charge on a first come, first serve basis.

There is swimming along the three miles of the Ompompanoosuc River's East Branch that runs through project lands. Sandy Beach offers a formal swimming area, with about 100 feet of beach. Two self-guided hiking trails—the .75 mile long Mystery Trail, and the 2.2 mile long Forest Management Demonstration Trail are popular with visitors. Project lands are also used for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

The Ompompanoosuc River offers trout fishing, and also supports self-sustaining yellow perch and white sucker. The river also supports self-sustaining yellow perch and white sucker. There is in-season hunting and/or trapping for deer, partridge, rabbit, muskrat, beaver, mink, and squirrel.