



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

News release

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Contact Tim Dugan 978-318-8264
timothy.j.dugan@usace.army.mil
696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Public meeting on Nov. 14 in Springfield

Corps to update master plan for North Springfield Lake flood control project

CONCORD, Mass. – The Master Plan for the North Springfield Lake flood control project in east-central Vermont along the Black River is being updated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam and reservoir area are located in the communities of Springfield and Weathersfield, Vermont. The project, located on the Black River, is an element of the Connecticut River Basin comprehensive flood control plan.

“The purpose of the study is to assess the natural and manmade resources of the project, determine regional needs and public desires, and develop an overall land and water management plan for the project,” said Study Manager Richard Heidebrecht, of the Corps of Engineers New England District Planning Branch.

A public meeting to discuss initiation of the master planning process, and to provide public officials and concerned individuals the opportunity to provide input will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2002 at 7 p.m. in the Selectman’s Hall, Town Office Building, Main Street in Springfield, VT.

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.

The Master Plan will cover the management of 1,372 acres of land and water surface area at the project. “To assist in developing an updated Master Plan, the Corps’ New England District is requesting input from public officials, concerned citizens, and others who may be able to provide information or assistance in updating the Master Plan,” Heidebrecht said.

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North Springfield Lake Master Plan/2-2-2-2-2

North Springfield Lake was completed in 1960 at a cost of \$6.8 million. The 2,940-foot-long, 120-foot-high earthen dam can impound a 1,200-acre lake, capable of storing 16.5 billion gallons of water. More than \$84.4 million in flood damages have been prevented by North Springfield Dam.

More than 10,000 visitors annually enjoy the picnicking, swimming, hiking, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling at the project. The 75-acre North Springfield Lake is a permanent pool and offers fishing for largemouth bass and other warm water species. The boat ramp is usable by canoes and small, flat-bottomed boats only. Nighttime fishing is allowed after posted closing hours with a nighttime fishing permit available from the project office.

Approximately three miles upstream of the dam is Stoughton Pond situated on the North Branch of the Black River in Weathersford. The 48-acre Stoughton Pond is stocked with rainbow trout and has a boat ramp and a five-mile-per-hour speed limit. Trout and smallmouth bass are available in the rivers. Stoughton Pond Recreation Area features a swimming area and picnic sites. Restrooms, a change house, picnic tables, grills, and drinking water are available in the area. A picnic shelter can be reserved for a small fee. Hunting, fishing, trapping, and snowmobiling are permitted with applicable licenses and permits and in accordance with state and federal regulations.

From Springfield, visitors can reach the dam by travelling north on Route 106 to Reservoir Road.

If you are unable to attend the public meeting, information or assistance in updating the North Springfield Lake Master Plan Study can be provided to the Study Manager Richard Heidebrecht at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Planning Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, telephone (978) 318-8513, or E-mail richard.w.heidebrecht@usace.army.mil.

Also, Gary Pelton, the Environmental Resource Specialist for this project, can be reached at (802) 886-8111 or at gary.w.pelton@usace.army.mil.