

VISION 2012

East Brimfield Lake



A Plan for the Next Ten Years

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Vision 2012

Our Ten Year Plan to is designed to bring you more enjoyment at the East Brimfield Lake and keep the flood control facility in top condition.

Vision 2012 is an evolving document, a planning tool that will promote and encourage additional projects and improvements to our facilities and programs solely for the visiting public at East Brimfield Lake. The project management team will use this document during the annual budget process to ensure the missions of the Corps and the approved goals of the community are implemented.

We present this plan to get your insights, comments and recommendations so we can better tailor our vision to your requests. We appreciate your feedback!

History

As a result of severe flooding that occurred during the hurricanes of 1936, 1938 and 1955, a series of flood control projects were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Quinebaug River. East Brimfield Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act dated 18 August 1941 (Public Law 228, 77th Congress, 1st Session). Authorization for development and use of the reservoir area for public recreation is contained in Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, approved 22 December 1944, Public Law 534, 78th Congress, 2nd Session.

East Brimfield Lake, completed in June 1960, is located on the Quinebaug River, in the towns of Sturbridge, Brimfield and Holland, Massachusetts. The total area of the project is 2716 acres, of which 2070 acres were purchased in fee and 646 acres are held in flowage easement. In conjunction with other Thames River Basin projects, East Brimfield Lake provides protection to Southbridge, Sturbridge and downstream communities, such as Putnam and Norwich, Connecticut. As of December 2001 the dam has prevented over \$46.4 million in cumulative flood damages.

Today

Natural and recreation resources at East Brimfield Lake provide social, economic and environmental benefits. The following tables are based on 1999 visitation figures:

Social Benefits

Social Benefits Recreation Facilities		Recreation Visits (person-trips)	
• 3 recreation areas	• 5 trail miles	• 130,300 in total	• 15,636 boaters
• 98 picnic sites	• 0 fishing docks	• 9,121 picnickers	• 16,939 sightseers
• 0 camping sites	• 3 boat ramps	• 0 campers	• 32,575 fishermen
• 0 playgrounds	• 0 marinas	• 18,242 swimmers	• 3,909 hunters
• 2 swimming areas	• 0 marina slips	• 13,030 water skiers	• 18,242 others

Social Benefits in Perspective
 By providing opportunities for active recreation, Corps lakes also help overcome one of the most significant of the nation's health problems: lack of physical activity. Exercise opportunities like those offered at Corps lakes also have a positive effect on individuals' mental and emotional outlook and sense of well-being by:

- Strengthening family ties and friendships.
- Providing opportunities for children to develop personal skills and social values while building self-esteem.
- Expanding knowledge about the area's nature and culture.
- Increasing everyone's safety when participating in recreational activities in and outside of Corps recreational areas.

Economic Benefits

Economic Benefits*

- 130,300 visits per year.
- \$1.83 million in visitor spending within 30 miles of the Corps lake. 66% of the spending was captured by local economy as direct sales effects.

With multiplier effects, visitor trip spending resulted in:

- \$1.98 million in total sales.
- \$1.05 million in total income.
- Supported 51 jobs in the local community surrounding the lake.

* From visitor trip spending within 30 miles of the lake only, does not include purchases of durable goods.

Economic Benefits in Perspective

- Visitors to Corps lakes spend money on trip expenses such as lodging and meals, and on durable goods like boats and campers.
- This spending contributes to the local and national economies by supporting jobs and generating income to those who directly and indirectly provide goods and services to Corps visitors.
- Revenues from visitor spending represent a sizable component of the economy in many communities around Corps lakes.

Environmental Benefits

Environmental Resources

- 2,359 land acres
- 360 water acres
- 7 shoreline miles
- 3 acres reforested
- 2,813 environmental interpretation contacts

Environmental Resources in Perspective

Recreation experiences increase:

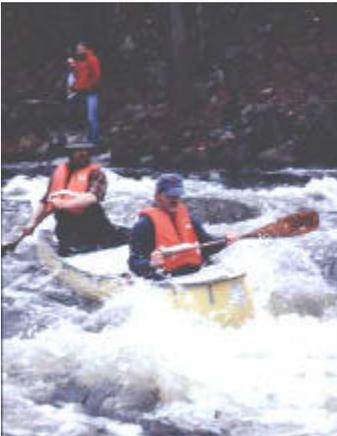
- Motivation to learn more about the environment.
- Sensitivity toward the environment.
- Deeper understanding of environmental processes.
- Awareness of environmental issues.
- Knowledge about the environment and one's place in it.

Source: Value to the Nation website at www.CorpsResults.us. Use fast facts to view this and other reports.

Resources

As the annual budget has remained fixed for the past ten years and is not projected to increase in the next ten years, our expenditures increase every year. With the cost of living increasing we too are affected. Everything from gas and oil, to repairing a 40-year-old facility, drain our resources – therefore, we continually look for new ways to accomplish our mission.

Through interpretation and outreach education we want to build partnerships with local business and community groups. Volunteers donated almost \$4,000 of time and materials in 2002 and we should top that in 2003. The following are plans and ideas in each of our major program areas. We are looking for feedback and input on how we can accomplish all of our goals and objectives within the next ten years.



Operation and Maintenance of Flood Control Facilities

Goal: To maintain all flood control facilities in a high state of readiness.

Objectives:

2002 Maintenance of Bridges. As part of our public safety plan we inspect our public bridges every two-years. Non-public bridges are inspected every five-years.

2005 Installation of Automatic Lubrication System for Flood Control Gates. To protect personnel from crushing hazards and to ensure a continual supply of grease to all critical bearings and automatic lubrication system for the flood control gates may be installed at this time.

2005 Upgrade of Electrical Service at Workshop. To handle increased usage of power tools an upgrade of the electrical system at the East Brimfield Dam workshop will begin this year. The current 60-amp system will be upgraded to a 100 or 200 amp system, to cover current and future needs

Recreation Management, Interpretation, Environmental Education and Outreach

Goal: Promote, improve and expand outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe and family oriented environment while protecting and enhancing the project resources and surrounding environment. To increase awareness of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the valuable resources we are managing.

Objectives:

2003 Rehabilitation of Quinebaug River Canoe Launch, Pond Bridge Road. Soon after Lake Siog enters into the Quinebaug River one will find a very popular put in point for canoeists. From here they can take a leisurely trip down the Quinebaug River to East Brimfield Lake. The parking area however is poorly designed to handle vehicles and is also poorly drained receiving road runoff from Pond Bridge Road, which in turn causes erosion of the parking area. Repairs to this area began in 2001 with the placement of a bulletin board for public information; in 2003 we are planning to grade the parking lot and provide an asphalt apron into the parking lot. A security gate may be added to keep the area clean and undamaged during nighttime hours.

2003 Establishment of Park Host Site at the East Brimfield Lake Damsite. To provide you with more informed, your trail and parking areas cleaner, sanitized bathrooms we are planning to place a park host site at the East Brimfield Damsite. The park host will be responsible for early morning openings or gates to provide angler access, e.g., 4:30-5:00 a.m., daily cleanings of trails and restrooms, and is available for your assistance. They will have the ability to reach local law enforcement as well as federal park rangers if you need the assistance. The park host will be a volunteer, provided with a RV site at little cost to the taxpayer.

2004 Repairs to Lake Siog Boat Launch, Pond Bridge Road. Offering a chance to put in small craft, the Lake Siog Boat Launch offers those with small boats a chance to enjoy Lake Siog. However, this parking area and its approach are poorly designed and receive runoff from the surrounding area that erodes the parking area as well as the launch. Plans to repair this area will include recontouring the parking lot to redirect water flow, providing a more defined entry and exit point and an information kiosk to inform you of on goings at East Brimfield Lake as well as boating safety tips. A security gate may be installed to secure the area during nighttime hours.

2005 Installation of Sealed Vault Toilets 'Romtek' Brand at Pond Bridge Road. For your convenience and sanitary needs a permanently installed accessible unisex toilet (one person use at a time) will be installed at the Canoe Launch of Holland Pond.

Waterless hand sanitizers will be installed to ensure cleanliness. Romtek toilets are sealed vault toilets, therefore not requiring leach fields. Annual pumping will ensure maximum storage availability. These are waterless and odorless toilets designed by the Romtek Company and are working quite well at other U.S. Army Corps of Engineer facilities such as Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Massachusetts and Westhill Dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts.



Photo Courtesy of Romtek

2006 – 2007 Installation of Sealed Vault Toilets 'Romtek' Brand at East Brimfield Lake 'Reservoir' and 'Long Pond' Ramps. For your convenience and sanitary needs a permanently installed accessible unisex toilet (one person use at a time) will be installed at each of the boat ramps off of Route 20, that give direct access to East Brimfield Lake. These are waterless and odorless toilets designed by the Romtek Company and are working quite well at other U.S. Army Corps of Engineer facilities such as Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Massachusetts and Westhill Dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

2008 Installation of Sealed Vault Toilets 'Romtek' Brand at Champeau Road Handicap Accessible Fishing Area. For your convenience and sanitary needs a permanently installed accessible unisex toilet (one person use at a time) will be installed at this area. These are waterless and odorless toilets designed by the Romtek Company and are working quite well at other U.S. Army Corps of Engineer facilities such as Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Massachusetts and Westhill Dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

2009 – 2010 Chipsealing of Reservoir Boat Ramp and Long Pond Boat Ramps. To preserve existing asphalt a chipseal application will be used to protect and extend the life of a deteriorating asphalt surface, which was last maintained in our estimation, in the late 1950's.



2012 Installation of Picnic Shelter Overlooking East Brimfield Lake. To provide you with more enjoyment of the public lands in the area of East Brimfield Lake we are planning to install a picnic shelter at the area overlooking East Brimfield Lake, (approximately halfway between East Brimfield/Holland Road and Streeter Recreation Area). Parking for approximately 20 –30 vehicles will be provided.



Photo Courtesy of Litchfield Industries

Cultural and Historical Resources, Natural Resources and the Environment

Goals: Identify, preserve, celebrate and promote historical and cultural resources with the least amount of impact while enhancing the public's knowledge of their significance. Natural resources will be conserved, protected, managed and restored for future generations. Support sustainable use of renewable resources.

Objectives:

Annual Boundary Maintenance

Control of Phragmites

2003 We will attempt to control the invasion of the exotic plant known as Phragmites in the Five Bridge Road Area of Brimfield. Phragmites offers very little in the way of wildlife food and crowds out native vegetation that does. Various control methods are being discussed at this time. We are hoping to reestablish native vegetation in this area, which in turn should encourage native wildlife to use the area again.

2003 Continue non-emergency water release coordination

2005 Master Plan (letter supplement)

2006 Environmental Assessment Update

2011 Stabilization of Angler's Overlook on Pond Bridge Road. In the first half of the 20th Century many houses were built around Lake Siog, their remnants still provide

great spots for fishing as well as on discussion on what was once here. A stonewall, located on the lake and between the boat and canoe launches is in an advanced stage of deterioration. We anticipate stabilizing this to provide continued angler access as well as for the preservation of history.

2012 and Beyond Expansion of Trail System. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel will be endeavoring to begin an expansion of the trail system at East Brimfield Lake to connect the Grand Trail within the public lands under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers management at East Brimfield Lake and beyond.

Partners

In these times, the Federal Government is tasked to do more with less. Now more than ever, partnering with other agencies, civic groups and users of our resources is the best way to do business. Below are many, but not all of the “Partners” the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers works with at East Brimfield Lake.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	Quinebaug – Shetucket National Heritage Corridor
State Historic Preservation Office	Massachusetts District QSHC
Local Historical Societies	Grand Trunk Trail Blazers
National Guard	Millennium Power/ U.S. Generating
Abutters	National Grid
Town of Sturbridge	The Nature Conservancy
Town of Southbridge	Opacum Land Trust
Massachusetts Environmental Police	Thames River Partnership
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Representatives and Senators
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Rails to Trails
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	Brimfield and Sturbridge Libraries
Massachusetts Riverways Program	AmeriCorps
Massachusetts Public Access Board	Student Conservation Corps
Thames River Flood Control Commission	West Street Elementary School
Southbridge News	Worcester County Sheriff
Worcester Telegram & Gazette	Hampden County Sheriff
WESO	U.S. Geological Survey
	Natural Heritage

Conclusion

As we looking forward over the next ten years, we will strive to appreciate and conserve our cultural, historical, recreational and natural resources. We are committed to enhancing your experiences at East Brimfield Lake. New volunteers and partnerships with residents, other agencies and local governments are key to our success in preserving the quality of life in our community.

**For More Information:
Call, email or write**

**East Brimfield Lake Office
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merlon.a.bassett@usace.army.mil

To get to East Brimfield Lake

Take the Mass Pike 90 to exit 9 and then Route 20 West. **OR** Take Interstate 84 to exit 3 and then Route 20 West through Sturbridge, 3 miles to Riverview Avenue on left. Follow signs to Project office. Please drive carefully

To get to Westville Lake

I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike) Exit 9, or I-84 Exit 3 to Route-20 West, on to Route - 131 East. Follow the signs to the Recreation Area.

I-84 Exit 1 to Mashapaug Road. Follow the signs to the Dam and Recreation Area.