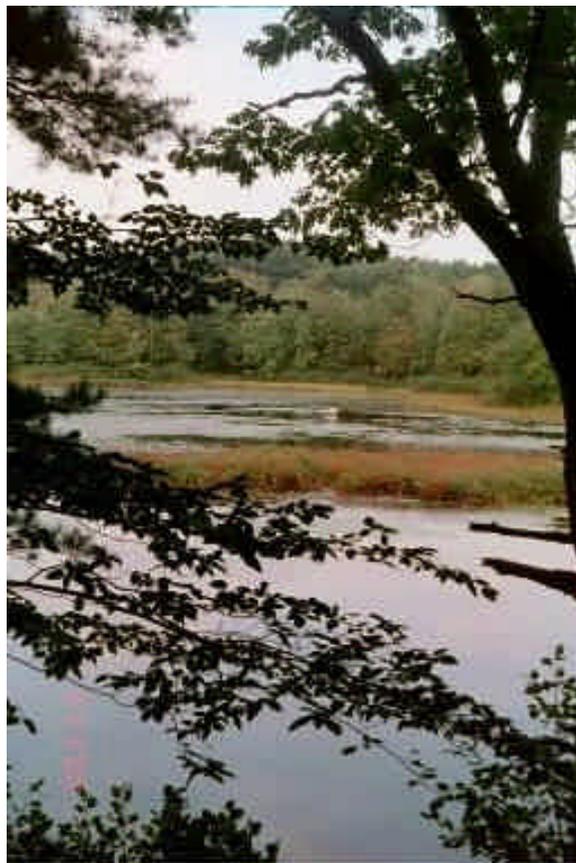


VISION 2012

Hodges Village Dam

A Plan for the Next Ten Years



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

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Vision 2012

Our Ten-Year Plan is designed to enhance the quality and safety of your visit at Hodges Village Dam.

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 Hodges Village Dam. 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 are presenting you this plan to get your insights, comments, and recommendations so we can better tailor our vision to your needs. We appreciate your feedback!

History

As a result of severe flooding that occurred during the hurricanes of 1936 and 1938 a series of flood control projects were built by the US Army Corps of Engineers on the Quinebaug River and within the Thames River Basin. Hodges Village Dam was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1941. Authorization for development and use of the reservoir area for public recreation purpose is contained in Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1944.

Hodges Village Dam, completed in 1959, is located on the French River, 15 miles upstream of its confluence with the Quinebaug River in the town of Oxford, Massachusetts. Hodges Village Dam is operated for flood control and provides major flood protection to the towns of Oxford and Webster, MA and in conjunction with the other projects in the Thames River Basin, provides protection to downstream communities on the Quinebaug and Thames River, such as Putnam and Norwich, CT. As of Oct. 2001 the dam had prevented over \$52 million in cumulative flood damages.



Today

Natural and recreation resources at Hodges Village Dam provide social, economic and environmental benefits. The following facts relate to the ways in which the US Army Corps of Engineers helps to make the region a more interesting place to live and visit.

Social Benefits

Recreation Facilities

- 3 recreation areas
- 0 picnic sites
- 0 camping sites
- 0 playgrounds
- 0 swimming areas

- 58 trail miles
- 0 fishing docks
- 0 boat ramps
- 0 marinas
- 0 marina slips

Recreation Visits (person-trips)

- 85,000 in total
- 0 picnickers
- 0 campers
- 0 swimmers
- 0 water skiers
- 1,700 boaters
- 14,450 sightseers
- 6,800 fishermen
- 4,250 hunters
- 55,250 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*

- 85,000 visits per year.
- \$1.12 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:

- \$1.21 million in total sales.
- \$0.64 million in total income.
- Supported 31 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

- 1,130 land acres
- 0 water acres
- 0 shoreline miles
- 4 acres reforested
- 1,656 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.

Accomplishments to Date

58 miles of multi-use trails

Project of the Year 2000

1,600+ Environmental Interpretive Contacts yearly

National Public Lands Day

Establishment of the Hodges Village Environmental Education Association (HVEEA)

Resources

As the annual budget has remained fixed for the past ten years and is projected to not 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 45-year-old facility, drain our resources therefore we continuously 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 over \$24,383 worth of time and materials in 2001 and we should top that in 2002 with new partnerships created this year. 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.



Annual Work Programming

Operation and Maintenance of Flood Control Facility

Goal:

To maintain all flood control facilities in a high state of operation and readiness with zero failure.

Objectives:

- 2003 Replace #1 gate tower electrical panel/bypass dampers/air terminal, Strong Motion Instrumentation upgrade, Fix weir gage staff, Replace gate tower furnace.
- 2004 Control point "E" remonumentation, test and rewire wiring insulation in dam, inspect manholes, Dam electric work/generator switching work, Purchase new dump truck and tractor.
- 2005 Host Periodic Inspection, Master Plan update, Replace USGS ladder.
- 2006 Add steps to outlet portal.
- 2007 Replace furnaces in all buildings at dam site.
- 2008 Seal coat access road and parking areas, Pump test on relief well, Roofs replaced at offices.
- 2010 Replace emergency generator in dam.
- 2012 Upgrade Thames River Basin Office parking lot.



Annual Work Programming

Recreation Management, Interpretation, Environmental Education and Outreach

Goal:

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



Objectives:

2003 Rehabilitation of steps from TRB office to Augguteback Pond with fence, Modify restrooms for barrier free access, Put in barrier free wayside overlooking pond, Create Clara Barton/Triphammer Interpretive Trail, Begin work on future Interpretive Center/Museum/EE Center in old carriage house.

2004 Winterize restrooms for all year use, Begin work on modifying the bailey bridge to be a covered bridge.

2005 Research Triphammer name for interpretive resource.

2007 Project brochure update.

2010 Add interpretive/educational kiosk at the Multiple Use Area, Increase parking at canoe launch at pond.

Annual Work Programming

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 knowledge of the public of their significance.

Natural Resources will be conserved, protected, managed and restored for future generations. Support sustainable use of renewable resources.



Objectives:

2003 Endangered species inventory, Forest cuts for habitat improvement, Document Triphammer historic site.

2009 Repair historic rock wall adjacent to entrance road.

2010 EA update.

2012 Evaluate cultural resources.

Annual Work Programming

Volunteer, Partnership and Co-operative Associations



Goals:

Increase our loyal and active volunteer base. Create new partnerships and Co-operative Associations within the community to achieve synergy.

Objectives:

2003 Endeavor to enter into working relationships with other interpretive entities for the purpose of creating the Carriage House Interpretive Center, Redefine HVEEA's mission statement and goals for the future.

Annual Work Programming

Visitor Assistance, Safety and Security

Goals:

Increase voluntary compliance of park and project rules and regulations through positive interaction with the visiting public. Promote and ever improve personnel and public safety and the security of government property.

Objectives:

2003 Enter into a Law Enforcement Agreement with the Massachusetts Environmental Police,

2005 Increase access control at the dam site (guardrail).

2008 Alarm system upgrade at Thames River Basin Office.



Annual Work Programming

Fiscal Year 2013 and Beyond

Goals:

Continue to provide quality service to the public.

Partners

In these times, the Federal Government is tasked to do more with less. Less money and with fewer resources. Now more than ever, partnering with other agencies, like minded civic groups and our local users of our resource is the best way to do business. Below is many, but possibly not all of the “partners” the US Army Corps of Engineers works with at Hodges Village Dam.

Baystate Barefooters	Project Coffee
Midstate Trail Committee	Friendly House
AMC	Massachusetts Riverways Program
American Hiking Society	Toyota Corporation
Baystate Trail Riders	Scouts
CMA Studies	Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary
Bass Clubs	Charlton Land Trust
EOEA (MA Env. Affairs)	Thames River Flood Control Comm.
SHPO	MA Watershed Comm. (Secchi folk)
Local Historical Commission	News media
The National Guard	Nichols College
Oxford NJROTC	Area Colleges/.Universities
Paintball groups	NEETF
Schools in community (Oxford X-country)	WWW (Nat. Fishing)
Public Access Board	Thames River Partnership
Massachusetts State Police	NE Bait & Tackle
Other Sporting Goods stores	Singletary Rod and Gun Club
7-Hills Occupational Training	200 Sportsman Club
Auxiliary (Coast Guard)	Area Little Leagues
Abutters	Libraries
Town of Charlton Police Dept.	NPS-QSRVNH
Town of Oxford Police Dept.	USGS
MA Environmental Police	PAL/Cultural Res. Group
Mobile Pipeline	Clara Barton Camp
Allen Joslin Camp	Audubon
Tenneco Pipeline	Town of Dudley
Hylka Construction Company	J. S. Lane
Cranston Print Works	Center of Hope
Gordon Dam	Tri-State Trail Riders
Ware Electric	NEMBA
NEFA	Nipmuc Nation
Concessionaires – Disc Golf	Town of Webster
SCA	Grouse Society
HVEEA	National Heritage
US F&W Angler Educ. Div.	MA F& W Angler Education Div.
MA EPA (DEP)	DEM
US EPA	
LPPs – Worcester, Saxonville, New London, Pawcatuck, Swansea	

Conclusion

As we look forward through the next ten years our goal is one of awareness and conservation of our cultural, historical, recreational and natural resources for now and for the future. We are committed to enhancing your experiences at Hodges Village Dam.

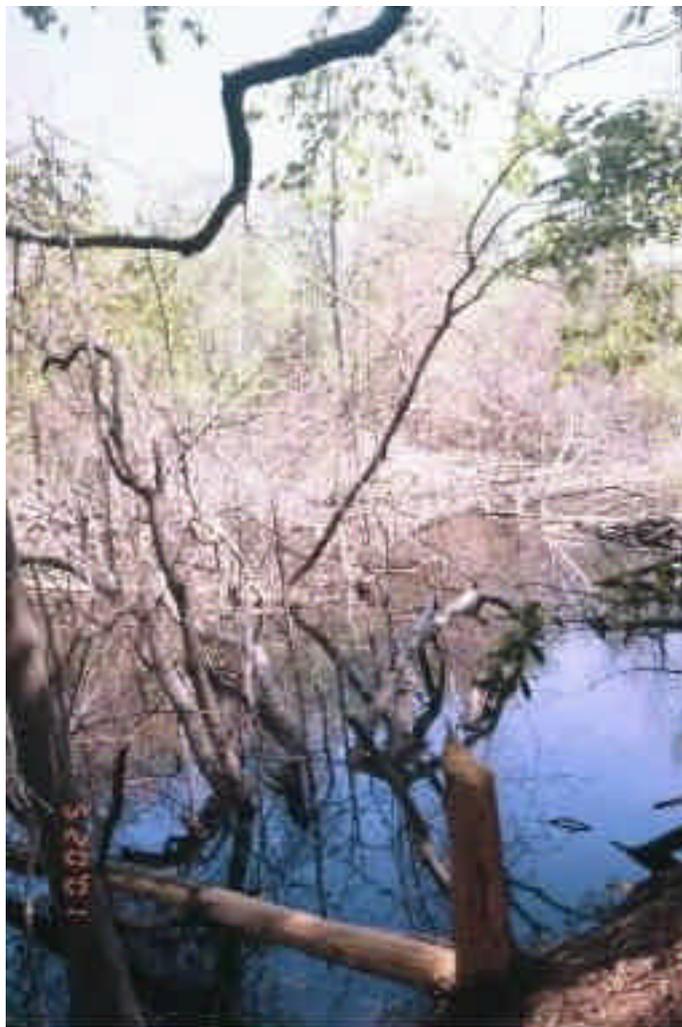
New volunteers and partnerships with residents and local government are key to our success as we maximize our limited resources to preserve the quality of life around the community and at Hodges Village Dam.

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

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To get to Hodges Village Dam

Easily accessible from the Mass Turnpike and I-395. From I-395, take exit 4 to Oxford. Go through Oxford Center and continue straight for one-half mile to Howarth Road. Turn right. From the Mass Turnpike, take the Sturbridge exit and follow Route 20 to Charlton. From Charlton, take a right on to Route 31 and follow the signs to Hodges Village Dam.