



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



LOYALHANNA LAKE

PITTSBURGHDISTRICT

**Loyalhanna Lake**, authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938, is one of 16 flood damage reduction projects in the Pittsburgh District. An important link in a system of flood control projects, Loyalhanna provides flood protection for the lower Loyalhanna Creek and Kiskiminetas River valleys as well as the lower Allegheny and upper Ohio Rivers.

Since its completion in 1951, the Loyalhanna project has prevented flood damage estimated to be in excess of \$752 million. The project has the capability to store the equivalent run-off of 6.16 inches of precipitation from its 290 square mile watershed. When compared to the flood protection benefits, the construction cost of \$5.5 million appears small.

**Recreation**

Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, among terrain characterized by its diversity, Loyalhanna Lake provides a mixture of scenery and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to visit the lake and enjoy its natural settings. Visitors to the lake will discover rolling foothills of the Laurel Highlands, from which the headwaters of Loyalhanna Creek flow, the steep, wooded hillsides and ravines found in the vicinity of the dam. In the midst of these surroundings, visitors to Loyalhanna Lake can enjoy many outdoor activities.

Fishing is popular at Loyalhanna with an abundance of inlets, coves and backwater areas. Plentiful in the lake are largemouth bass, crappie, bullhead, and bluegill. There are also large populations of muskellunge established and occasionally trout from the headwaters are caught in the lake. Fishing is particularly good in the area where Serviceberry Run flows into the lake and in the waters of the stilling basin and outflow area below the dam.

For boaters, the lake offers many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. A three-lane boat launching ramp is provided for power boaters and water-ski enthusiasts. Canoeists can float Loyalhanna Creek as it meanders on its course toward the lake, providing beautiful scenery and a chance to observe nature.

Boaters at Loyalhanna also have the opportunity to venture along the Black Willow Water Trail.

This unique trail is a self-guided boating trail with designated stations marking many natural and man-made features. A trail brochure provides additional information and is available at the boat launch area and the lake office.

If you are looking for a quiet spot for an afternoon picnic with family and friends, Loyalhanna has it. The Damsite Picnic Area, with its panoramic view of the dam and surrounding areas, is popular with visitors. Another picnic area is located in the Bush Recreation Area. Pavilions are available for rental through Recreation.gov.

Loyalhanna also offers camping at the Bush Recreation Area. There are 44 campsites, each with a picnic table and fire ring. Some sites have electric and water hook-ups. The campground has restroom facilities, a shower house and a sanitary dump station. Reserve your site online at [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov). A primitive group campground located at the Kiski Area is available for organized groups on a first come first served basis by contacting the park office.

The Corps of Engineers leases 3,200 acres of project lands to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for wildlife management purposes and public hunting. Hunters will discover that the lake's surrounding area holds a variety of different game, such as deer, rabbit and squirrel. There are also many types of game birds including turkey, grouse, pheasants, and doves. Several parking lots have also been developed to provide access to hunting areas.



**Loyalhanna Lake**  
440 Loyalhanna Dam Road  
Saltsburg, PA 15681-9302  
(724) 639-9013

**Daily Lake & Recreation Information:**

(724) 639-3785 or (724) 639-9013 Dial 7

[www.facebook.com/LoyalhannaLakeUSACE](http://www.facebook.com/LoyalhannaLakeUSACE)

Scan QR code with the camera on your device for more information about Mosquito Creek Lake



**Lake and Dam Statistics**

Location: On Loyalhanna Creek, 4.5 miles above its junction with the Conemaugh River at Saltsburg, Pa. forming the Kiskiminetas River. The lake and dam is located entirely in Westmoreland County, Pa.

Project Area: . . . . . 3,722 acres  
Drainage area above dam: . . . . .290 sq. mi.  
Construction costs: . . . . . \$5,500,000

**Dam**

Type structure:  
Concrete gravity type with gate controlled center spillway and adjoining earth embankment on left bank.  
  
Volume of concrete and earth fill:  
. . . . . 182,588 cu. yd.  
Maximum height above streambed: 114 ft.  
Total length: . . . . . 960 ft.  
Maximum width at base: . . . . . 88.5 ft.  
  
Outlet works:  
. . . . . Four 5.67' x 7' gate controlled sluices  
. . . . . One 24" value-controlled sluice  
. . . . . Five 29' x 30' crest gates

**Lake**

Length at summer pool: . . . . . 4 mi.  
Summer Area: . . . . . 400 acres  
Maximum Area: . . . . . 3,280 acres  
  
Elevation above sea level:  
Streambed at Dam: . . . . . 869 ft.  
Maximum Pool: . . . . . 975 ft.  
Summer Pool: . . . . . 922 ft.



***Enjoy a safe outing.  
Observe these safety tips!***

## Water Hazards

Boat with caution! Be especially aware of the existence of underwater obstructions. In addition, floating debris may be at or near the lake surface as a result of fluctuating lake levels. Boaters and skiers should be watchful for these hazards; because of these floating and underwater hazards, diving is discouraged.

## Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

When boating, the best protection against drowning is to wear your PFD. U.S. Coast Guard approved PFDs are required, by regulation, if you are less than 13 years of age, a non-swimmer, are on a boat less than 16 feet in length or are in a canoe, kayak or paddleboard. Know the rules before you go out on the water.

## Fire Protection

The fire potential is generally high during the recreation season. Help prevent forest fires by obeying the No Open Fire regulation in effect.

# Boaters

Be considerate of those in canoes or fishing at anchor. There are several shallow areas upstream of the boat launch. Please use caution.

## Alcohol and Boating Don't Mix

Don't drink while operating a boat. Alcohol is involved in at least 50 percent of all drownings and a major cause of death in recreational boating accidents.

**Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on all Corps of Engineers lake lands and waters!**

## Be alert to changing weather/ lake conditions

Storms can come on very quickly. If lightning is spotted, head for shore immediately and seek out a safe location.

# Analers

Use a wading stick to check for sudden drop-offs in the water and for extra balance.

Federal rules and regulations concerning the use of this lake are set forth in Title 36, Chapter III, of the Code of Federal Regulations and are on display in public areas of this lake.

