



Conemaugh River Lake, authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938, is one of 16 flood damage reduction projects in the Pittsburgh District. Conemaugh Dam provides flood protection for the lower Conemaugh Valley, the Kiskiminetas Valley, the lower Allegheny Valley, and the upper Ohio River Valley.

Since its completion in 1952, the project has prevented more than \$582 million in flood damages. In June 1972, when tropic storm Agnes struck the area, this project alone prevented \$225 million in flood damage. These flood control benefits were the greatest ever realized by a project in the Pittsburgh District. The dam was able to prevent four feet of flood waters from reaching Point State Park in Pittsburgh.

To implement the production of hydroelectric power at the dam, the Federal Energy Regulation Commission issued a license to the Borough of Saltsburg, in association with Pennsylvania Renewable Resources Associates, for construction of a plant 1,200 feet downstream from the dam. This plant produces 16 megawatts of energy from two turbine generator units.

Lake and Dam Statistics

Location: On the Conemaugh River, between Blairsville and Saltsburg, 7.5 miles upriver from the junction where the Conemaugh River and Loyalhanna Creek unite to form the Kiskiminetas River.

Total Area:	8,954 acres
Drainage area above dam:	1,351 sq. mi.
Construction costs:	\$302,880,000

Dam

Type of structure:	Concrete gravity
Volume of concretefill:	355,500 cu yd
Maximum height above streambed:	137 ft.
Total length:	1,265 ft.
Maximum width at base:	128 ft.

Outlet works:

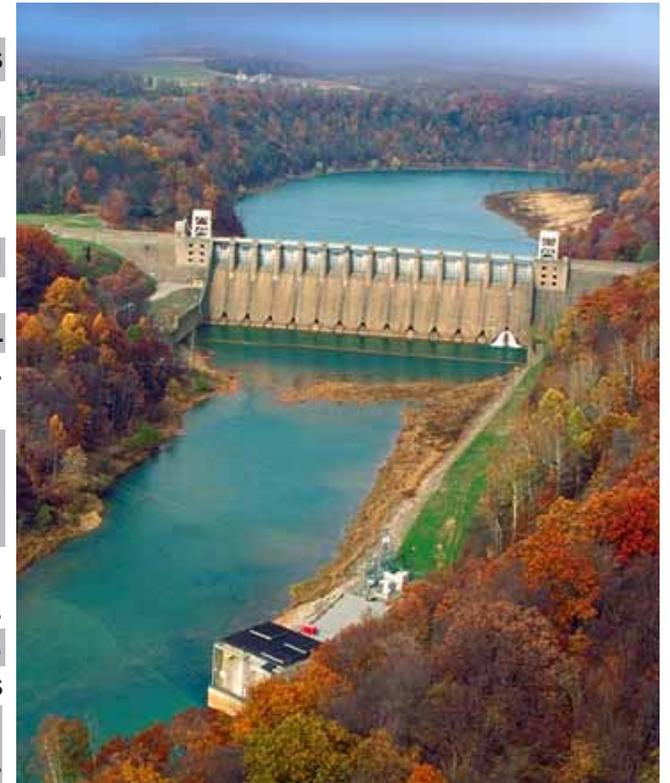
Thirteen 5.67' x 10' sluice gates
Fourteen 30² ft. crest gates

Lake

Length at normal pool:	7.6 mi.
Normal Area:	800 acres
Maximum Area:	6,820 acres
Elevation above sea level:	
River at Bottom:	850 ft.
Maximum Pool:	975 ft.
Normal Pool:	800 ft.



Conemaugh River Lake



BUILDING STRONGSM

Conemaugh River Lake

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Recreation

The unusual availability of cultural resources and recreation opportunities attract visitors to Conemaugh Dam. Since power boating is prohibited, the lake has maintained a rich natural environment which is unique to the region.

At the dam, visitors will find an information center, picnic pavilions, a playground and a nature trail. Corps rangers conduct tours through the dam that take visitors 30 feet below the bottom of the river. The information center contains exhibits devoted to floods and the construction of the dam. Other exhibits explore the industrial and transportation history of Conemaugh Valley.



Bow Ridge Area offers a loop trail that runs along the edge of a bluff overlooking the lake, a disabled accessible area for hunters, and a car-top boat launching area for disabled access only. Another disabled accessible area is Virginia Farms. Permits for Bow Ridge may be obtained at the park office.

Adjacent to the Dam Recreation Area, historical development is currently underway with the construction of the West-Penn Trail and the Tunnel View Historic Site. The riverside trail includes a walk along the Main Line Canal that once connected Philadelphia to Pittsburgh (1834-1854). Overlooks along the trail will provide views of the historic canal and railroad structures,



a canal tunnel and aqueduct dating from 1830, two railroad tunnels and three railroad bridges. This historic site is maintained by the Indiana County Parks Department.

Stricter environmental regulation on the Conemaugh River has resulted in improved fishing. Previously, discharges from inactive

coal mines caused a decline in water quality. The reservoir water quality has substantially improved, which fosters a growing fish population.

Up river from the dam, 6,756 acres of reservoir land is leased to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for use as public hunting ground. Located at the tailwaters of the dam is a canoe launching ramp used by those who take the scenic trip downriver to Saltsburg and beyond.

