



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

MAHONING CREEK LAKE

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Mahoning Creek 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, Mahoning provides flood protection for the lower Allegheny River Valley and the upper Ohio River. Since its completion in 1941, Mahoning has prevented flood damage in excess of \$886 million. When compared to these savings the construction cost of \$6 million appears small.

Mahoning also stores water and releases it downstream during dry periods to improve water quality and quantity for domestic and industrial use, navigation, recreation, esthetics and aquatic life.

Recreation

Situated among steep-sided valleys and wooded hillsides, Mahoning Creek Lake is surrounded by the rugged and striking terrain of western Pennsylvania. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to discover Mahoning's breathtaking scenery and its opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Boating on Mahoning Creek Lake is limited to 10 horsepower and swimming is not permitted in the lake. Canoeists, fishermen and persons using small boats, however, will appreciate the more peaceful and relaxed atmosphere that is characteristic of the lake and upstream sections of the creek. Boaters will especially enjoy floating Mahoning Creek as it meanders in the valleys on its way toward the Allegheny River, and exploring the small inlets of the lake.

Near the dam, the Corps maintains facilities for the public's enjoyment. Visitors can relax in one of Mahoning's tree-shaded picnic areas, complete with modern restrooms, grills, picnic tables, playground facilities, an overlook and walking trails. The Outflow Area is accessible for persons with disabilities and includes a restroom, pavilion, picnic sites and fishing access.

The Corps of Engineers leases 860 acres of lake lands and waters to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The lease encompasses the main body of the lake and its adjoining lands including the Milton Loop Boat Launch and the Sportsman's Area.

Armstrong County leases 28 acres from the Corps to operate the Milton Loop Campground. Fifty-two sites suitable for all types of camping are available.

The campground has modern restrooms with showers and a sanitary disposal station. A limited number of campsites are available for the duration of the camping season; see the camp host for details.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission additionally leases 1,280 acres of lands in Indiana County for wildlife management and public hunting. Hunting and trapping are permitted in all areas of the lake except developed recreation areas and posted areas. All federal, state and local laws concerning these activities apply. A variety of game is found in abundance around the lake including white-tailed deer, black bear, small game species, and upland game birds. The use of all-terrain vehicles is strictly prohibited.

Swimming is not permitted in the lake and in Big and Little Mahoning Creeks.

Hydropower

Mahoning Creek Hydroelectric Company began generating power in December of 2013 utilizing existing penstocks in Mahoning Dam. This 6MW run-of-river project has the potential to provide



Indiana County Parks leases 33 acres from the Corps to operate the Smicksburg Park. Scenic and historical trails are available for visitors to enjoy.



energy to 18,000 homes. The powerhouse is located 1000 feet downstream of the dam on the left bank and is designed to include safeguards for existing fish & wildlife habitats.

Mahoning Creek Lake
145 Damsite Road
New Bethlehem, PA 16242-9603
(814) 257-8811
Daily Lake & Recreation Information:
(814) 257-8017
<https://www.facebook.com/MahoningUSACE>
<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/MahoningCreekLake.aspx>

Lake and Dam Statistics

Location: On Mahoning Creek in Armstrong County, Pa., 21.6 miles upstream from the junction of the creek and the Allegheny River. The project is located in Armstrong, Indiana and Jefferson Counties, Pa.

Total Area: 2,967 acres
Drainage area above dam: 340 sq. mi.
Construction costs: \$6,000,000

Dam

Type of structure:
Concrete gravity with a gate controlled center spillway

Volume of concrete fill: 342,210 cu yd
Maximum height above streambed: 162 ft.
Total length: 926 ft.
Maximum width at base: 154 ft.

Outlet works:
. One 24" Ball Valve Conduit
. Three 5'8" x 10' sluice gates
. One 36" ring jet valve

Lake

Length at summer pool: 5.5 mi.
Normal Area: 280 acres
Maximum Area: 2,370 acres

Elevation above sea level:
Streambed at dam: 1,008 ft.
Summer Pool: 1,097 ft.
Maximum Pool: 1,162 ft.
Winter Pool: 1,077 ft.

BUILDING STRONG®

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.

Life Jackets
When boating, the best protection against downing is to wear your PFD. In Pennsylvania, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFDs are required for passengers 12 years of age and under, non-swimmers, and for all persons on board a kayak, canoe, paddle board or boat under 16 feet in length. 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.

Boaters
Be considerate of those in canoes or fishing at anchor.

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.

Firearms and ammunition
The US Army Corps of Engineers does not honor State-issued concealed weapon permits, prohibits loaded concealed weapons, the possession of loaded firearms or ammunition on lands and waters administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers per 36 C.F.R. § 327.13(a).

Anglers
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.

