

Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir

Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1958, the Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir is one of 16 flood control projects in the Pittsburgh District. The project provides flood protection for the Mahoning River Valley and the Beaver and upper Ohio River.

Since its completion in 1965, the Kirwan Reservoir has prevented flood damages estimated to be in excess of \$749 million. Kirwan has the capability to store the equivalent run-off of 18.35 inches of precipitation from its 80.5 square mile drainage area. When compared, the \$20 million cost of construction is by far outweighed by the project's flood prevention benefits.

Kirwan also stores water for release downstream during dry periods. This has the effect of improving both the quality and quantity of flow in the Mahoning River for domestic and industrial use, recreation, esthetics and aquatic life.

Lake & Dam Statistics

Location: On the West Branch of the Mahoning River about 10.6 miles above the junction of the branch and the Mahoning River. The project is located entirely within Portage County, Ohio.	
Project area, acres:	6,332
Drainage area above dam, square miles:	80.5
Construction cost:	\$20,000,000

Dam

Type of structure:	Rolled earth fill embankment
Height above streambed, feet:	83
Length, feet:	9,900
Width at base, feet:	800
Volume of earth, cubic yards:	3,200,000
Outlet Works: Intake tower containing three 2' x 3' gates for low regulation discharge and three 5' x 8' barrel conduits for flood discharge	

Lake

Length at normal pool, miles:	10
Area, acres:	
Maximum (reservoir full):	3,240
Normal (summer pool):	2,650
Elevation, feet above sea level:	
Maximum (reservoir full):	993
Normal (summer pool):	985.5
Streambed at dam:	928