



US Army Corps of Engineers

CONEMAUGH RIVER LAKE

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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.

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.



Conemaugh River Lake
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Saltsburg, PA 15681-9302
(724) 459-7240

Daily Lake & Recreation Information:
(724) 639-3785 or (724) 639-9013 Dial 7

<https://www.facebook.com/ConemaughRiverLakeUSACE>

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/ConemaughRiverLake.aspx>

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: 900 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. Boat operation is restricted electric motor only All launches close when pool reaches elevation of 915.00 above sea level.

Winter Activities

Stay dry, dress in several layers of clothing, and wear a hat to conserve body heat. Severe shivering, lack of coordination, and confusion are symptoms of hypothermia, a critical condition due to subnormal body temperatures.

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!

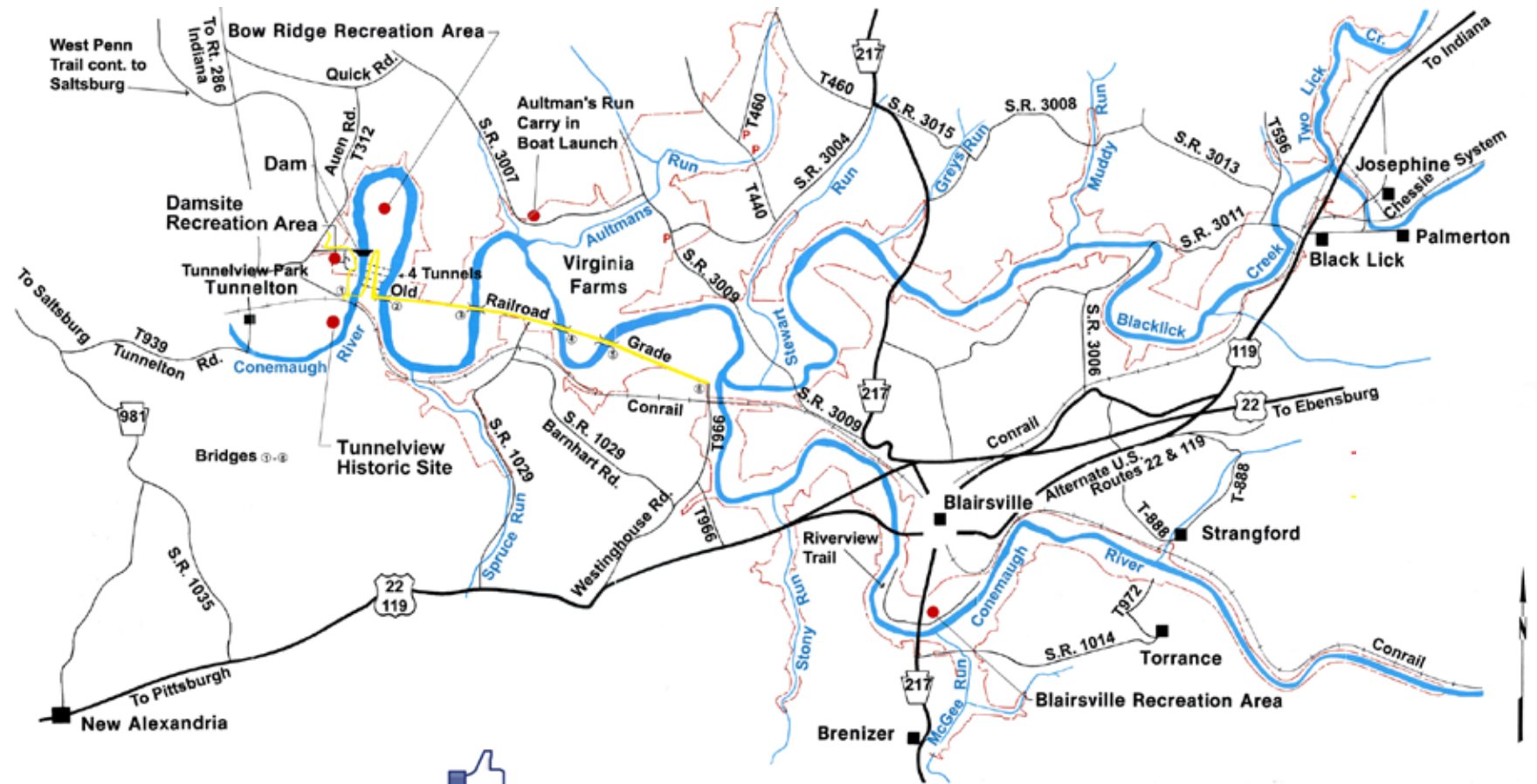
Be alert to changing weather/ lake conditions

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

Anglers

Use a wading stick to check for sudden drop-offs in the water and for extra balance. When fishing below the dam, be alert of rapid water level changes, outflow rates can change quickly. Camping and fires not permitted along the shoreline.

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.



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Conemaugh River Lake

	Interpretive Trail	Hunting	Ballfield	Pavilion	Information Center	Canoe Launching (Fees)	Accessible Restroom	Drinking Water	Picnic Areas	Restroom Facilities	Bicycle Trail
Damsite Recreation Area						●	●	●	●	●	●
Bow Ridge Recreation Area						●					●
Virginia Farms						●					
Blairsville Recreation Area	**					●	●	●	●	●	●
Aultmans Run										★	
Tunnelview Park (Indiana County)	●						●	●	●	●	●

West Penn Trail 4.5 mile Conemaugh River Lake section that connects to Saltsburg
* PA Game Commission ** Borough of Blairsville ★ Planned