
Deep Creek Lake Hydroelectric Development

Recreation and Environment

On March 22, 1922, preliminary surveys began in Garrett County on the waterpower possibilities of the Youghiogheny River. The Youghiogheny Hydroelectric Company had been granted the rights to construct several dams across Deep Creek and the Youghiogheny River. The surveys showed that building the Deep Creek dam was feasible and should be done first, as it would be economically self-sustaining. Since then the dam was built and has changed ownership several times. Currently, the dam and powerhouse are owned and operated by Brookfield Renewable Power. The lake was created for hydroelectric generation, yet has become a recreation Mecca for many outdoor enthusiasts.

Construction History

- Preliminary surveys began March 22, 1922
- Construction work began November 1, 1923
- Lake began to fill January 10, 1925
- Power plant began operation July 6, 1925

Power Plant

The Power Plant is a three story, brick, concrete and steel structure containing two 12000 H.P. Allis-Chalmers Generators. The difference in elevation between the intake at the dam and the turbines is 440 feet at water surface elevation of 2,462 feet above sea level. The generators transmit 115,000 volts. The tailrace is 400 feet long, while the concrete, horseshoe-shaped tunnel is 7, 150 feet long. The plant also contains two steel penstocks with diameters of six feet and length of 685 feet, and one steel surge tank with a diameter of 35 feet and height of 53 feet. The elevation of the lake bottom at tunnel intake is 2,410.5 feet. The Power Plant produces a total of 20 Megawatts at full load.

Dam

The dam is composed of 750,000 cubic yards of earth, filled about a concrete core wall. The 1,340 foot long, conical-shaped structure is 86 feet tall, 450 feet wide at the base, sloping to 24 feet wide at the top. The concrete spillway is 300 feet wide and 720 feet long. The elevation at the top of the spillway is 2,462 feet above sea level.

Lake

The lake, when full, covers 4,500 acres and is 11.6 miles long along the centerline. The flow line elevation is 2,462 feet with flood elevation reaching 2,466 feet. The shoreline at 2,462 feet above sea level is approximately 65 miles long. When full it contains 4,620,000,000 cubic feet of water or 34,560,002,400 gallons. The elevation at maximum winter drawdown is 2,455 feet. The area of the Deep Creek Lake watershed is 65 square miles. Except for the dam, intake tunnel, and power plant, the lake is owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which has control of fishing, boating, and issuing of licenses. The lake is stocked with Large and Small Mouth Bass, Muskellunge, and smaller species like Crappies and Perch. Since 1965, the lake has been stocked with Brown, Brook, and Rainbow Trout, and Walleye fingerlings. The lake is 62 feet higher in elevation and 9 miles north of Oakland, the County seat. Due to its high altitude, cool nights and comparative freedom from mosquitoes, the lake affords an ideal place for summer vacationers.

Recreation and Stewardship

The Maryland Park Service strives to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for your recreational pleasure. In doing so, we must balance user needs with environmental demands to meet our stewardship obligations. You are an important part of the stewardship team. It is your responsibility to have the necessary skills, knowledge, and equipment for a safe and environmentally sensitive visit.

Since its construction in 1925, Deep Creek Lake has been a regional attraction offering a variety of land- and water-based recreation. During the summer months boating is the premier activity. In order to ensure a quality experience, the Maryland Park Service issues the following reminders to all boaters:

Fast Facts

- **FISHING** - Game fish at Deep Creek Lake include, among others, small- and large-mouth bass, walleye, trout and pan fish. Fishing is permitted in accordance with state regulations and a license is required for all persons 16 years or older.
- **COURTESY COUNTS** - Please consider the comfort, safety, and enjoyment of other visitors in boats, on docks, or swimming.
- **ALCOHOL AND BOATING DON'T MIX** - Always appoint a designated skipper, just as you would a driver when in your car.
- All boaters should put **SAFETY FIRST** and operate vessels accordingly.

Become familiar with general boating regulations, as well as those specific to Deep Creek Lake. All boaters born on or after July 1, 1972, must possess a boating safety certificate.

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	<p>"Bringing Natural Resources and People Together"</p>	
	<p><small>Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days advance notice is requested.</small></p>	