



US Army Corps of Engineers®



YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

## Youghiogheny River Lake

authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938, is one of 16 flood damage reduction projects in the Pittsburgh District. The project provides flood protection for the Youghiogheny and lower Monongahela River valleys as well as for the Ohio River.

Since completion in 1943, the Youghiogheny Lake has prevented flood damages estimated to be in excess of \$851 million. The lake has the capability to store the equivalent run-off of 21 inches of precipitation from its 434 square mile watershed.

The dam also helps to alleviate pollution problems by releasing additional water downstream during low water periods. Increased stream flow improves the quality of water entering the rivers from towns, industries, and coal mine drainage. The increased stream flow also improves the navigability of the Monongahela and upper Ohio rivers for barge traffic.



Youghiogheny Hydro-Electric Authority holds a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate a hydroelectric plant below the dam. D/R Hydro Company that has operated and maintained the plant since 1989. The plant can generate up to 12 Megawatts of electricity per hour, enough to service approximately 8,000 homes for a year across western and central Pennsylvania.

In the heart of the Laurel Highlands and spanning the Mason-Dixon line between Pennsylvania and Maryland sits Youghiogheny River Lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to experience the waters, mountains and steep-sided valleys which encompass the

lake and provide an unsurpassed setting for outdoor recreation.

A popular location for recreation, Youghiogheny River Lake attracts numerous visitors each year. Boating, fishing, camping, and many other outdoor activities are available, with outstanding facilities provided for the visitor's convenience.

Boaters consider Youghiogheny River Lake, with its 16 mile length and channels up to one-half mile wide, the best power boating and water-skiing lake in southwestern Pennsylvania.

For those who prefer non-motorized boats, the Youghiogheny River has plenty to offer. From the outflow area of the dam and extending for approximately 20 miles downstream is one of the more popular rafting and canoeing rivers in the eastern United States. The boulder strewn stretch of river below Ohiopyle, Pa. is renowned for its whitewater and is often the scene of national kayaking competitions.

For fishermen, there are numerous coves and backwater areas along the lake which provide excellent fishing. The lake is inhabited by a large variety of game and pan fish and is known as a hotspot for walleye and smallmouth bass. A license has been granted to the Fish and Boat Commission for fish management purposes in the Pennsylvania portion of the lake.

The Fish and Boat Commission also developed and maintains the Jockey Hollow Boat Launching Area. The tailwaters of the dam are also very popular for trout fishing. Youghiogheny River Lake's outflow area is one of the few areas in Pennsylvania open for trout fishing year round and is stocked by the Fish and Boat Commission on a regular basis throughout the spring and summer. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission close the Youghiogheny River to trout fishing for two weeks prior to the start of trout season each year.

Another popular activity at Youghiogheny River Lake is camping. Campers have a choice of three campgrounds at which to stay, each offering something different with facilities ranging from modern to primitive.

If you're out for an afternoon drive, why not stop and have a lakeside picnic at one of Youghiogheny's four picnic areas, then tour

the area and enjoy the scenery as well as the numerous points of interest which are within a short drive of the lake. A special time for sightseeing at Youghiogheny River Lake is during the first half of October when fall colors are at their peak.

**Youghiogheny River Lake**  
**497 Flanigan Road**  
**Confluence, PA 15424-1902**  
**(814) 395-3242**

**Daily Lake & Recreation Information:**  
**(814) 395-3166**

<https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Youghiogheny-River-Lake>

## Lake and Dam Statistics

Location: On the Youghiogheny River, about a half mile above Confluence, Pa. The lake is located in Fayette and Somerset Counties in Pennsylvania and Garrett County in Maryland.

Total Area: . . . . . 3,915 acres  
Drainage area above dam: . . . . . 434 sq. mi.  
Construction costs: . . . . . \$9,675,000

## Dam

Type structure:  
Rolled earth with impervious core

Volume of earthfill and rockfill:  
. . . . . 3,060,500 cu yd  
Maximum height above streambed: 184 ft.  
Total length: . . . . . 1,610 ft.  
Maximum width at base: . . . . . 1,100 ft.

Outlet works:  
Three 4'3" x 20' vertical lift gates  
Concrete lined tunnel 1,800' long x 16.5' to 18' in diameter

## Lake

Length at normal pool: . . . . . 16 mi.  
Summer Area: . . . . . 2,840 acres  
Maximum Area: . . . . . 3,566 acres

Elevation above sea level:  
Streambed at dam: . . . . . 1,313 ft.  
Maximum Pool: . . . . . 1,470 ft.  
Summer Pool: . . . . . 1,439 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 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 or kayak. 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.

**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.

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.

### Youghiogheny River Lake

	Camper Dumping Station	Boat Rentals	Information Center	Drinking Water	Launching Ramps	Restroom	Picnic Areas	Murilla	Accessible Restrooms	Swimming	Kayak Takeout
Outflow Camping Area											
Spillway Recreation Area											
Somerfield North Recreation Area											
Mill Run Recreation Area											
Jockey Hollow Picnic Area								*			
Tub Run Camping Area											
Jockey Hollow Boat Launch	*										
Somerfield South Concessionaire/ Marina	**										
Friendsville Park	****										

\*\*\* Facility allows significant access. Some individuals with disabilities may have difficulty and need assistance. \* PA Fish & Boat Commission  
★ The Jockey Hollow Information Center has been Closed \*\* Private Enterprise



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

