



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

NEWS RELEASE

March 23, 2025
Release No. MA 2025-009

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USACE to host Host Townsend Lake Master Plan Open House April 15

CONCORD, Mass. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will host an open house on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, to kick off a process to revise the 1961 Townshend Lake Master Plan, supplemented in 1966 with Supplement A, DM No. 9. The open house will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Jamaica Town Hall, 3735 VT Route 30, Jamaica, VT 05343.

During the open house session, there will be no formal presentation. The public is invited to visit at any point during the 4:00-6:00 p.m. time frame to interact with USACE team members. Team members will be stationed around the room and can share information about the revision process, provide the general schedule, and gather initial feedback from the public.

Master Plan Overview

The Master Plan is defined as the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all recreational, natural, and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project. It defines "how" USACE will manage the resources for public use and conservation.

The current Townshend Lake Master Plan, last approved in 1961, needs revision to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and the USACE management policy. Key topics to be discussed in the revised Master Plan include revised land use classifications, new natural and recreational resource management objectives, recreation facility needs, and special issues such as invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat. The Master Plan revision will not address the technical and operational aspects of the lake related to flood risk management or the water conservation missions of the project.

Initial Comments

An initial 30-day comment period will begin April 15, 2025, and end May 16, 2025. The public can send comments, suggestions, and concerns during this time. Comments must be submitted in writing at the open house or digitally via the comment form on the Master Plan Revision web page: www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/recreation/townshend-lake/townshend-lake-master-plan/. The web page also contains a presentation which will be running during the open house. The presentation

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provides a schedule as well as details on an additional comment period after the draft report is released (currently scheduled for July 2026).

About Townshend Lake

Townshend Lake in Townshend, Vermont is located on the West River, about 19.5 miles upstream of the confluence of the West and Connecticut rivers, and is part of a network of flood control projects in the Upper Connecticut River Basin. Construction began in 1958 and was completed in 1961 at a cost of \$7.5 million dollars.

The project, along with Ball Mountain Lake situated 9.5 miles upstream, provides flood protection to Townshend, Dummerston, Newfane, Brookline, and Brattleboro, all situated on the West River. Along with other Corps dams in the Connecticut River Basin, Townshend Lake also reduces downstream flood stages on the Connecticut River.

The project consists of an earthfill dam with stone slope protection 1,700 feet long and 133 feet high; a gated 360-foot-long horseshoe-shaped concrete conduit with a diameter of 20 feet six inches; and a spillway cut in rock with a 439-foot-long concrete L-shaped ogee weir. The weir's crest elevation is 30 feet lower than the top of the dam.

Townshend Lake has a permanent pool of 95 acres with a maximum depth of 21 feet. The flood storage area of the project totals 735 acres and extends 4.5 miles upstream through Jamaica. The project and all associated lands cover 1,219 acres. Townshend Lake can store up to 11 billion gallons of water for flood control purposes. This is equivalent to 5.8 inches of water covering its drainage area of 106 square miles.

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