

The Reservoir Review

A Newsletter about life on Neponset Reservoir

The History of Neponset Reservoir

As the quiet of winter sets in on the Reservoir, it gives thought to how the lake came to be.....it's origins and history, which is rich. However, to appreciate it, one has to go back and understand how and why it was formed.

The Reservoir is one of the largest bodies of water in the I-95 Boston/Providence Corridor, comprising approximately 335 acres. It serves as the headwaters for the Neponset River, which ultimately flows 26 miles into Dorchester Bay, fed along the way by other water sources. The Reservoir has a little over 9 miles of shoreline. It is a relatively shallow body of water with the northern part (around Shoreline, Hillside, Bragg, Hollow, Thompson, Edwards, Garrett Spillane, Patriot, Minuteman, Young, Camp, McCasland, McKenzie, Messinger, and Munroe roadways) and eastern part (around Beach, Alice Bradley, and Pumping Station roadways) ranging from just inches in depth to about 4 feet. The southern part (around Ridge, Neponset Heights, Creighton, Idlewild, Kersey, and Aylward roadways) ranges from 4 feet to 7 feet in depth. The deepest part of the Reservoir is around the Dam at 8 to 10 feet. Water depth can vary widely based on the time of year (deepest from March through May, and shallowest from August through October) and amount of precipitation. There are approximately 145 abutters on the Reservoir, with well over 400 homes in the watershed.



Getting Ready to Ice Fish



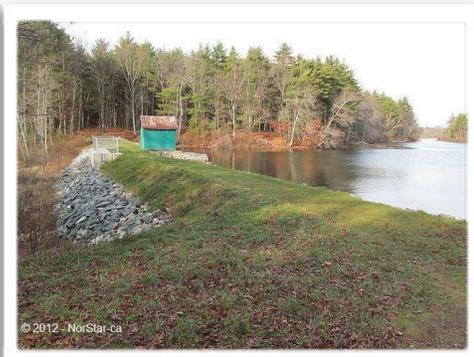
"The Swanson's," as they are known to many on the Lake.

The Neponset Reservoir Company was incorporated on February 18, 1845 "for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a reservoir by the erection of a dam across the Neponset River." It was formed by five companies that ran mills in need of water.



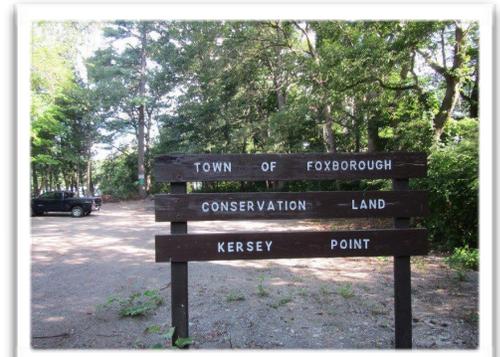
Nature in Winter

They cut down trees in five cedar swamps and flooded the swamps to form the Reservoir (a reservoir of water for industrial use rather than for drinking water). They built the dam that is standing today and dredged the area around the dam.



Neponset Reservoir Dam

By the 1920s, the Reservoir began a rich history of recreation over 50 years, supporting two marinas, a water skiing club, and a Boy Scout camp. There are currently over 90 acres of conservation land on the western part of the Reservoir (the Lane Property) with trail access



Kersey Point

from the North, Messinger, Munroe, Chestnut, and Payson roadways. There is also a small public park – KerseyPoint– at the end of Kersey Road. The Reservoir is habitat to wide variety of wildlife, including swans, ducks, mergansers, geese, herons, cranes, turtles, beavers, muskrats, and various species of fish. Sightings of eagles and loons have also been reported.



A Pair of Bald Eagles on the Lake (Dec 2016)

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE LAKE IS DRAWN DOWN IN WINTER?

Drawdowns are done for many reasons such as protection of shoreline, control of aquatic weeds, providing water storage capacity to mitigate flooding, among others.

We drawdown our lake primarily to control aquatic weeds. Low water levels will expose the plants and thus, reduce their density and chokehold on the lake. You'll hear more about weed control in the Spring Newsletter.

