



BEAR CREEK DAM FACTS

Fact Sheet 5 Bear Creek Reservoir

Update June 1, 2016

The Bear Creek Watershed Association protects and restores water and environmental quality within the Bear Creek Watershed from the effects of land use.

Clear Creek County
 Jefferson County
 City of Lakewood
 Town of Morrison
 Aspen Park Metropolitan District
 Brook Forest Inn
 Conifer Sanitation Association
 Conifer Metropolitan District
 Denver Water Department
 Evergreen Metropolitan District
 Forrest Hills Metropolitan District
 Genesee Sanitation & Water District
 Geneva Glen
 Jefferson County School District
 Kittredge Water & Sanitation District
 Tiny Town Foundation, Inc.
 West Jefferson County Metropolitan District
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Bear Creek Dam was the last of three dams built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect the Denver region from floods. The Dam is located on the southwest edge of suburban Lakewood at the confluence of Bear Creek and Turkey Creek. It was authorized in 1968 and completed in 1982. The dam was constructed in two segments including the main embankment and the south embankment. Bear Creek Reservoir is less than 1 mile long and was originally designated with a maximum depth of 48 feet.. In 2014, the maximum normal pool depth was 38 feet, with an average depth of 28 feet. The reservoir drains an area of approximately 236 square miles, including the Bear Creek and Turkey Creek drainages. The multi-purpose pool is usually about 110-surface-acres and has a average daily storage capacity of 2,000 acre-feet.

The Dam Facts

Type: Rolled Earth Fill
Height: Main Embankment 179.5 feet;
 South Embankment 65.0 feet
Length: Main Embankment 5,300 feet;
 South Embankment 2,100 feet
Width of Top: Main Embankment-30 feet;
 South Embankment-30 feet
Fill Quantity: Main Embankment 11,345,000 cubic yards;
 South Embankment 770,000 cubic yards

The Spillway

Type: Earthen Cut
Capacity: 153,500 cubic-feet per second

The Outlet Works

Type: Circular 7 feet in diameter
Capacity: 2,000 cubic-feet per second

The Lake

Drainage above dam: 236 sq. miles
Storage Capacity: 78,000 ac-ft
Surface Acres (max. pool): 718 acres
Surface Acres (multi-purpose pool): 110 acres
Maximum depth: 48 feet (at completion)
Length of multi-purpose pool: 0.5 miles
Width of multi-purpose pool: 0.4 miles
Capacity of multi-purpose pool: 2,000 ac-ft

BCWA Sampling Stations

Central Pool: 11m or 36 feet, field profile, chemistry, biological, temperature probes (-1/2-2m), and sediment. Aerator system.

Four Corners: field profiles, chemistry, biological and sediment

