

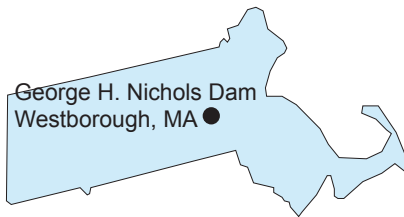
## Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

## *Reinvesting in the George H. Nichols Dam, SuAsCo Watershed, Massachusetts*

### Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs (both directly and indirectly related to the project) and protect lives and property during floods. During and after floods it will prevent injury and disease, reduce the need for emergency services, and keep community services operating.



The George H. Nichols Dam is located in Westborough, Mass., a suburban community west of Boston.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Worcester County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$2,007,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$837,800

A section of the dam will be widened and reinforced to prevent flood water from breaching the dam during storm events. This project will bring the dam up to current safety standards and extend its life for 60 years.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Worcester County Conservation District

### Benefits

This project will protect the area's 870 residents, 131 homes and businesses, 10 bridges, and benefit fish and wildlife. Annual flood damage reduction benefits are estimated at \$110,500.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



The George H. Nichols Dam in Westborough, Massachusetts provides flood protection and recreational benefits.

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## Reinvesting in the George H. Nichols Dam, SuAsCo Watershed, Massachusetts

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### Economic Opportunities

It will put more than \$2 million into the local economy and create or save jobs.

### Statewide Perspective

The 377-square mile SuAsCo watershed encompasses parts of 36 Massachusetts towns, including: Stow, Berlin, Northborough, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, and Westborough. The SuAsCo dams act as a comprehensive system to control a drainage area of nearly 50 square miles and provide flood storage of more than four billion gallons. Today, the SuAsCo network of dams provide an estimated \$1.7 million in annual flood damage reduction benefits.

### For More Information

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Spillway inlet at the George H. Nichols dam.

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