

## Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

## *Reinvesting in the Hop Brook Dam in the SuAsCo Watershed, Massachusetts*

### Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs and protect lives, property, and public works from dam failure. During and after floods, it will prevent injury or disease, reduce need for emergency personnel, and prevent disruption of community services.



The Hop Brook Dam is located in Northborough, Mass., a suburban community of west of Boston.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Worcester County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$2,357,400
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$548,700

This project will widen and armor the dam's auxiliary spillway to prevent overtopping of the dam and breach failure.

### Partners

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

### Benefits

Bringing the dam up to current performance and safety standards will maintain existing flood control benefits in an area where there is significant urban development. This project will increase public safety and protect residences, businesses, roads, schools, a fire department and utilities in the floodplain.

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 Hop Brook Dam in Northborough, Massachusetts provides flood protection and recreational benefits.

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### Economic Opportunities

Rehabilitation of the Hop Brook Dam will create or save jobs and provide an estimated \$215,000 in average annual flood damage reduction benefits.

### Statewide Perspective

The Hop Brook Dam is one of ten in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SuAsCo) Watershed that together control drainage in an area of nearly 50 square miles and provide flood storage of more than four billion gallons. These dams also provide an estimated \$1.7 million in annual flood damage reduction benefits. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation owns, operates, and maintains the dams and with NRCS assistance, monitors the dams to ensure that they provide flood protection to this growing area west of Boston.

The entire 377-square mile SuAsCo watershed encompasses all or part of 36 Massachusetts towns, including Stow, Berlin, Northborough, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, and Westborough.

### For More Information

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The water control structure at the Hop Brook dam.

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