

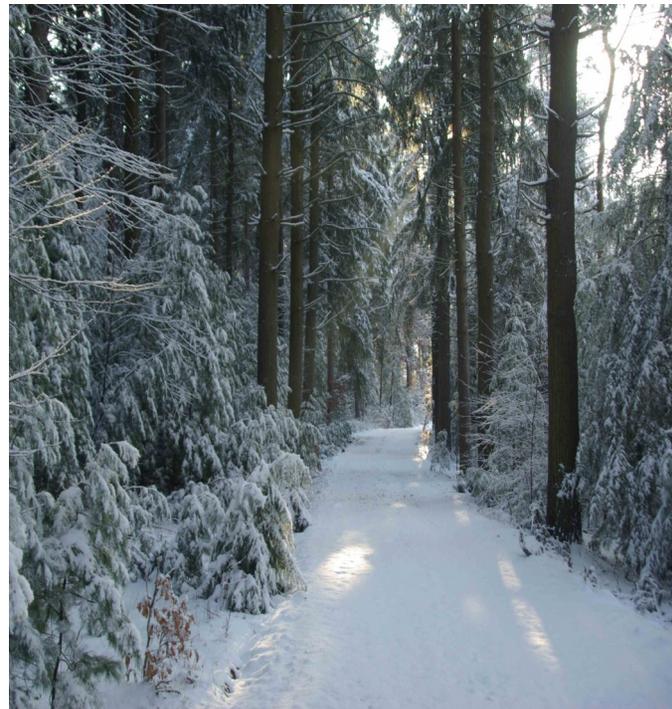
Recreation at Owl Creek

Formerly the Borough's drinking water reservoirs, the Owl Creek Dams were opened to the public as a low-impact recreation area in 2002. The dams offer many outdoor recreation opportunities including:

- Walking/Hiking
- Biking
- Fishing
- Boating (Electric Motors Only)
- Picnicking
- Boy Scout Events
- Halloween Hayrides
- Visits with Santa
- 5k's and Bike races

The Borough and the Owl Creek Reservoir Commission has also partnered with the PA Fish and Boat Commission which patrols the dams and stocks the dams.

Like our Facebook Page "Owl Creek Reservoir Happenings" for more information.



Owl Creek Reservoir

Tamaqua, PA 18252



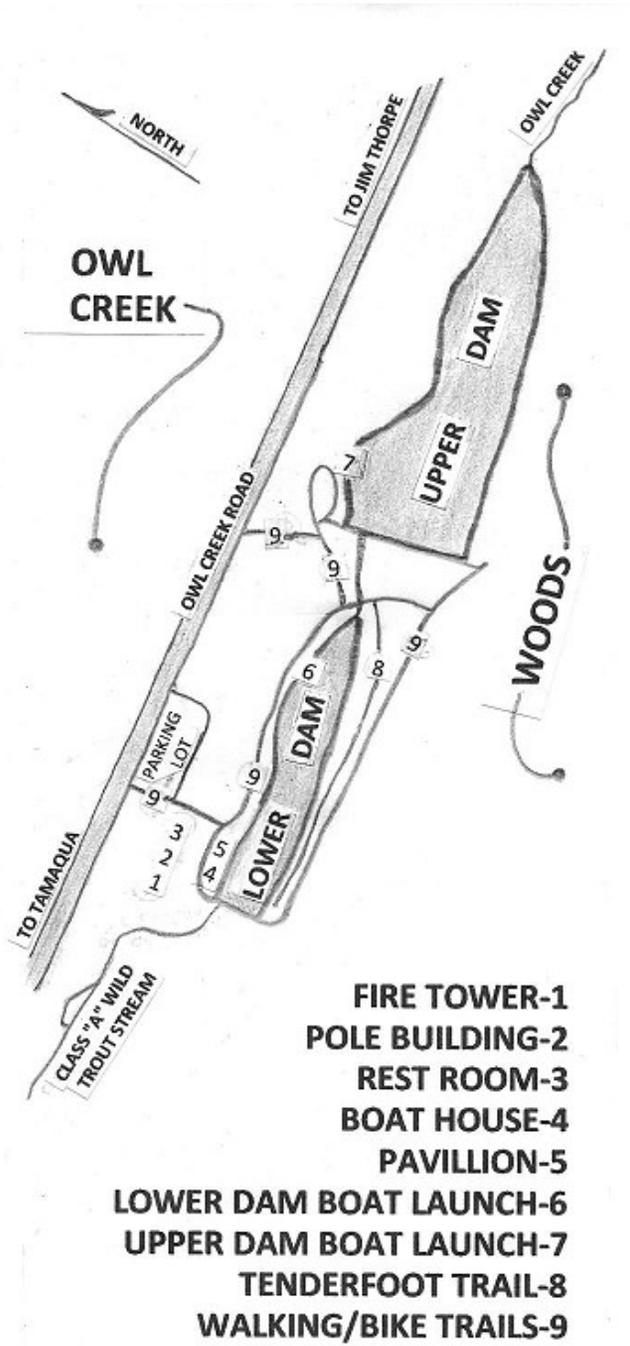
Owl Creek Reservoir Recreation Area
Owned by the Borough of Tamaqua



History of the Dams

The Owl Creek Reservoir has two dams, an upper and a lower. The Lower Dam is the oldest of the two as it was originally constructed in 1883. Back then it consisted of a rubble masonry dam and concrete wall with upstream and downstream earth embankments. It was then reconstructed in 1928 to cover the existing dam and raised approximately six feet. The lower dam was once Tamaqua's drinking water supply. (Rabbit Run Reservoir was Tamaqua's first drinking water supply) Owl Creek also supplied industrial water to Atlas Powder Company.

The Upper Owl Creek Dam was built in 1921 by Central Construction Company out of Harrisburg. This dam is a 1300 foot long earth fill embankment with a concrete core wall at the centerline of the dam.



Restoration Project

In 2012 the Upper and Lower Owl Creek Dams underwent a 20-month long, \$5-million dam rehabilitation. Both dams were designated as high-hazard and the rehabilitation work was needed to bring them into compliance with current dam safety regulations. The work consisted of increasing the height of the dams and constructing new spillway and outlet structures. The project was designed by Alfred Benesch & Company of Pottsville and Schnabel Engineering of West Chester, PA. Performance Construction Services of Harrisburg, PA performed the work at both dams. A ballot referendum in 2009 led Tamaqua Borough Council to borrow \$1.5 million to finance the project.

Eighty percent of the project cost was funded by a state H2O PA Grant and the remaining 20 percent was financed by the Borough of Tamaqua.

