



## Hiking

The hiking trail is open year round from sunrise to sunset. A considerable portion of the trail along the old railroad grade, located along the eastern side of the reservoir, and on the existing town roadway in Tolland and Ellington provides a lake-view walk. The trail encompasses minimum hill climbing and is not suitable to qualify as a handicapped accessible trail. Entrances to the trail are available from auto accessible roads.

Hikers are to limit their activities to the designated areas on the town road or the Connecticut Water Company property as shown on the map and as indicated by the signage along the trail. Trespassing beyond the trail or onto private property is prohibited.

## General Information

Sanitary facilities and trash receptacles are provided at designated locations. Participants should use these facilities and report any problems or violations of the permit regulations to the Lake Activities Monitor.



For more information about the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir Recreational Program contact:

**Connecticut Water Company**  
1-800-286-5700

**Shenipsit Lake Reservoir**  
**Boat Storage Facility**  
(860) 875-1850

## Permit Conditions

The DPH permit allows fishing and hiking in accordance with the terms of the approved permit. The following are strictly prohibited at Shenipsit Lake Reservoir at all times of the year:

- Kayaks / Sculls
- Inflatable crafts
- Paddle boats
- Swimming
- Wading or bodily contact with the water
- Littering
- Fires
- Camping
- Coolers
- Disposal or discharge of wastes or other substances into the reservoir
- Alcoholic beverages
- Cleaning of fish
- Hunting or trapping
- Motor bikes, snowmobiles, motorized vehicles, or vessels of any type except boats propelled by electric motors or oars
- Removal of trees, shrubs, flowers or other vegetation
- Vendors
- Carrying or discharging firearms or dangerous weapons
- Overnight parking
- Bicycles on Connecticut Water property
- Horses on Connecticut Water property
- Activities of any type, including ice-fishing, on frozen reservoir or tributaries
- Fishing within restricted areas (marked by buoys)
- Pets, except on trail where they are permitted if restrained on a leash and controlled by owner
- Smoking on Connecticut Water property

**Violation of any of the rules or committing any other act that degrades water quality may result in revocation of the privilege to use these facilities, and could jeopardize the continuation of the recreation program permit.**

**Violation of federal, state or local laws may result in arrest and prosecution.**

## Shenipsit Lake Reservoir Recreation Program

WELCOME to Shenipsit Lake Reservoir. The Connecticut Water Company, in cooperation with the Shenipsit Lake Association, is pleased to offer this recreational fishing and hiking program. Open to all residents of the State of Connecticut, the public is encouraged to take part in the recreation program and enjoy this natural resource. It is important, however, that users understand Shenipsit Lake Reservoir is a public drinking water supply source and there are special precautionary measures that must be taken to ensure the continuous protection and quality of the water supply source.

Connecticut Water Company has a long history of environmental stewardship and takes great measures to protect this public water supply, while at the same time allowing recreational activities that are permitted and approved by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Participants are expected to observe the terms and conditions of the permit, particularly regarding proper waste disposal and the prohibition of contact with the water.

The fishing program starts annually on the second Saturday of April and ends on October 31 with permitted hours from sunrise to sunset. The hiking trail is open year round from sunrise to sunset. A Lake Activities Monitor is on-site daily to supervise activities during the permitted hours. The Monitor helps ensure the fishing and trail programs are implemented in accordance with the DPH permit and reports any incidents or violations to the appropriate authorities. The opening and closing dates for the recreation program, as well as notices and special event announcements are posted on the bulletin boards located near the boat storage shed and at the trail entrance.



**Shenipsit Lake**  
**ASSOCIATION**



## Fishing

Fishing is allowed in designated areas along the shoreline or from boats powered by oars or electric motors from sunrise to sunset each day during the permitted program period. All persons fishing who are 16 years or older must possess a valid Connecticut fishing license, and those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult with a valid Connecticut fishing license. **Wading into the lake is strictly prohibited.**

Only those boats that have secured a place on the boat rack in the Boat Storage Area are allowed on the lake. The Boat Storage Area is open each season to accept boats for quarantine three days prior to the opening day of fishing season.

Boats entering the water must first be quarantined in the designated Boat Storage Area for a 48-hour period. This on-site storage is required, in accordance with the DPH permit, to protect against zebra mussel contamination.

Upon completion of the quarantine period, a sticker will be issued for the boat. This sticker must be prominently displayed any time the boat is used on the lake. To maintain the sticker, the boat must remain at Shenipsit Lake. If a boat is removed to other waters, the sticker will be removed or marked void, and the boat will be subject to the 48-hour dry storage period before being permitted back on the lake. **Boats may only be launched and brought to shore at the Boat Storage/Launching site.**

All boats registered in the State of Connecticut are required to be numbered and display current registration decals. **Anyone fishing from a boat shall have a valid fishing license, necessary personal flotation devices, and a safe boating certificate as required by law.**

