



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Huntington District

Picturesque Bluestone Lake, one of southern West Virginia's key attractions, offers visitors a wide variety of activities such as fishing, boating, camping, hunting, biking, and picnicking. Bluestone Lake and Bluestone Dam attract 1.3 million visitors annually. It is the third largest lake in West Virginia and was developed as part of the Kanawha River Basin flood risk management system. It was also designed to provide recreation, future hydropower and fish and wildlife enhancement.

Bluestone Dam has a unique history. Although not congressionally authorized, it was authorized in 1935 by an Executive Order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A lawsuit challenging the government's right to construct the dam initially delayed construction. This suit eventually was argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court where the court ruled in favor of the government.

Construction of the dam began in 1942 following early survey and planning activities in the 1930's. Work was suspended during World War II and resumed in 1946. The lake and dam were completed for operation purposes in January 1949. Installation of the crest gates, were later added and completed in 1952.

Bluestone Dam is located along West Virginia state Route 20, one mile above its confluence with the Green Brier River. The New and Gauley Rivers meet at the town of Gauley Bridge to form the Kanawha River. The dam and lake derive their names from the Bluestone River, which joins the New River about two miles above the dam.

The lake property covers a total of four counties in West Virginia and Virginia and is accessible by I 64 and I 77.

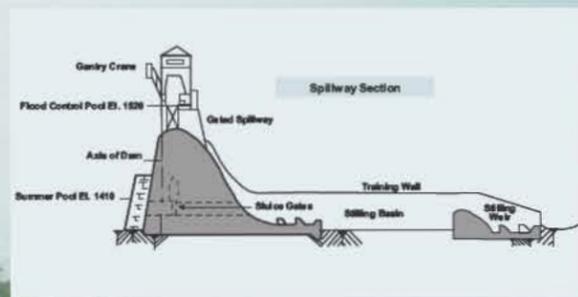
In conjunction with Sutton Dam on the Elk River and Summersville Dam on the Gauley River, Bluestone Dam provides flood risk management for the highly populated and industrialized Kanawha River valley. These three lakes control 57% of the total drainage area at Charleston. Bluestone Lake controls 44% of this total.

Including land acquisition, total approximate cost of Bluestone Lake was \$30 million. As of January 2008, the dam has prevented 2.1 billion in flood damage reduction.

Bluestone Lake extends ten and on half miles up the New River. It has the largest drainage area and flood storage of any dam in the state of West Virginia.

Bluestone Dam is a concrete gravity dam, 165 feet high and 2,048 feet long. Normal release of water from the lake is accomplished through 16 sluices located in the base of the dam. The 790 foot spillway section of the dam has 21, 30x31 foot gates to control discharge of excess floodwater storage.

Six penstocks (sluiceways for guiding water to generators) were built into the dam in the event hydro electric power generation is added.



Recreation

The summertime surface of 2,040 acres provides boaters, skiers, and fishermen great recreation opportunities.

Parking, a scenic overlook, picnicking, fishing access, playgrounds, and restroom facilities are available for visitors at the below dam recreation areas. Group shelter reservations are also available by calling the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) at 877 444 6777 or visit the website at Recreation.gov.



A Unique River

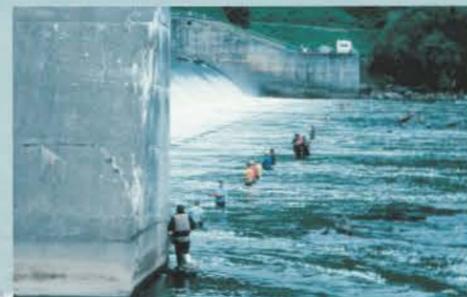
The New River is believed to have been first recorded in 1650 by Abraham Wood, trader and explorer, and was called Wood's River until 1750.

To the geologist, the New River is like a collector's item a relic. Considered the second oldest river in the world, preceded only by the Nile, it is the oldest existing river in North America. It originated millions of years ago and partially follows the path of the prehistoric Teays River.

The New River is also unique because it begins at Blowing Rock, N.C., and flows north through Virginia into West Virginia. In 1998, the New River was designated as an American Heritage River.

Fish and Wildlife

Approximately 20,000 acres of federally owned land on Bluestone Lake is leased to the state of West Virginia for forest, fish and wildlife conservation called the Bluestone Lake Wildlife Management Area. The area is noted for being one of the most popular public hunting and fishing areas in West Virginia. Year after year, it produces more citation game fish than any other warm water river in West Virginia. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, sunfish, hybrid striped bass, and muskellunge are all common species of fish found in the New River and Bluestone Lake.



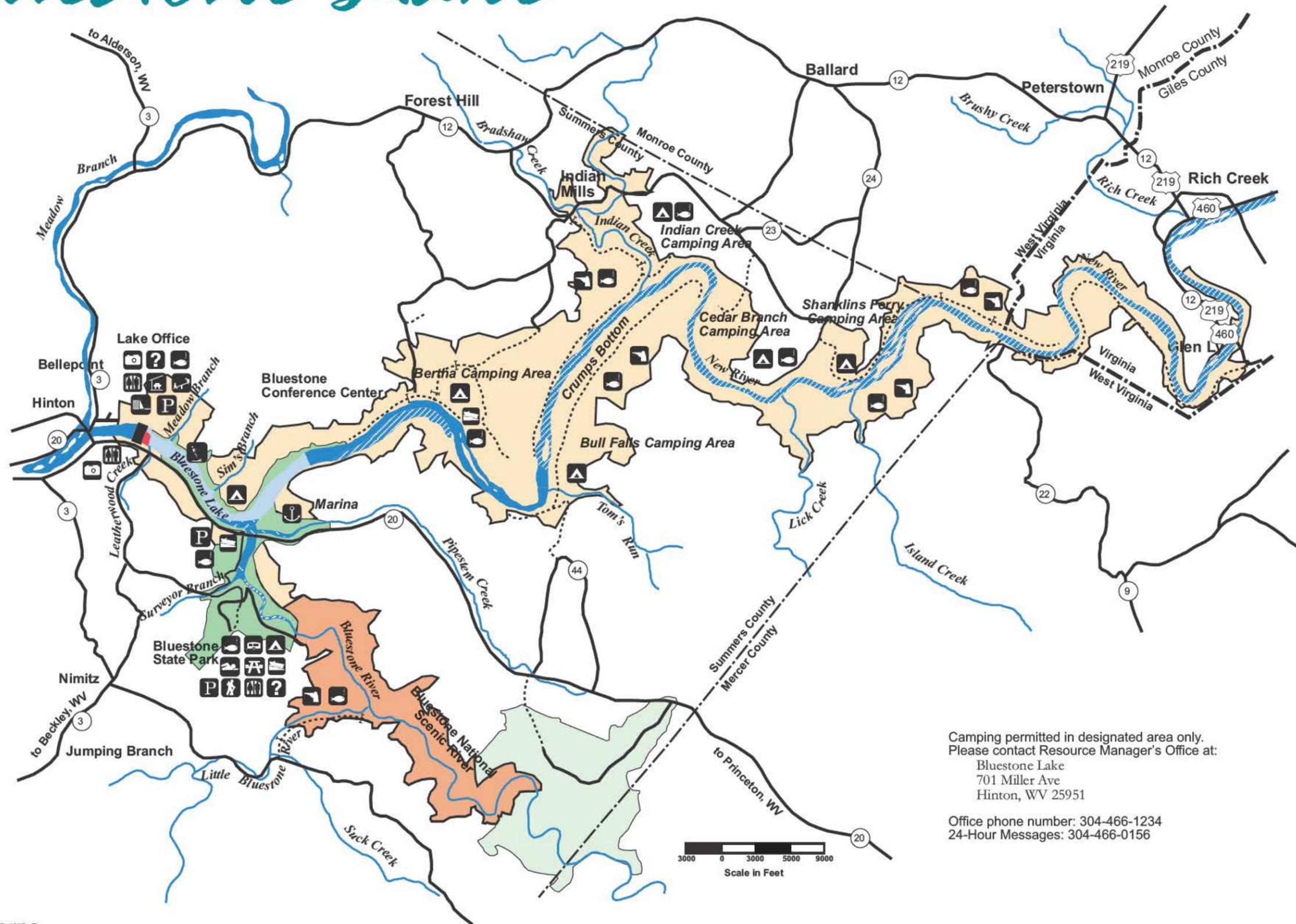
For Information Contact:

Resource Manager
Telephone: 304 466 1234
Recorded 24 Hour Message:
304 466 0156
Bluestone Lake
701 Miller Ave
Hinton, WV 25951
Web Site: www.usace.army.mil

Bluestone Lake



Bluestone Lake



- ### Legend
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Property
 - Bluestone National Scenic River (National Park Service)
 - Bluestone State Park
 - Pipestem State Park
 - No Ski Zone
 - Primary Highways
 - Gated Area
 - Limited Access
 - Unlimited Speed Zone: Skiing permitted in this zone only.
 - Idling No Wake Speed Zone: Diving permitted in this zone only.
 - Keep Out
 - Hazardous Boating Area

Camping permitted in designated area only. Please contact Resource Manager's Office at:
 Bluestone Lake
 701 Miller Ave
 Hinton, WV 25951

Office phone number: 304-466-1234
 24-Hour Messages: 304-466-0156



- Restrooms
- Campground
- Parking
- Swimming
- Trailer Sites
- Hunting
- Information
- Boat Ramp
- Fishing
- Viewing Area
- Dam
- Picnic Area
- Marina
- Water Skiing