



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/16/2025

Martin Dunham Dam Update

(Grafton, NY) – New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is pursuing near-term measures to improve dam safety at the Martin Dunham Reservoir.

NYS Parks will begin designing a project to replace four 24-inch low-level outlet valves, waterproof the main valve chamber, repair the inlet structure, and stabilize the spillway outlet channel. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety considers the dam "unsound" as it does not meet current safety standards and recommended that "reservoir lowering should be considered as an interim safety measure."

While these measures will not bring the dam into full compliance with DEC dam safety regulations, they will enable park staff to actively manage the reservoir level as necessary. Reducing the reservoir's water level serves to provide increased storage for storm events, reduce seepage pressures at the main embankment and reduce the risk of overtopping the dam. NYS Parks has opened an outlet valve within the Dike Section of the dam to reflect those goals of improving the safety of the structure.

NYS Parks will continue to explore options and funding sources to come into full compliance with dam regulations while preserving quality recreational options and natural habitat in this area of Grafton Lakes State Park.

Further information on the Martin Dunham Dam and Reservoir is available on the Grafton Lakes State Park website: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/graftonlakes>. Public input is being accepted via email at dunham@parks.ny.gov.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more, and welcomes over 88 million visits annually. For more information on any of these recreation areas, visit parks.ny.gov, download the free [NY State Parks Explorer app](#) or call 518.474.0456. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), the [OPRHP Blog](#) or via the [OPRHP Newsroom](#).