

Lake Chamberlain

The West River and its tributary, the Sargent River, flow through the valley west of West Rock Ridge. Five reservoirs were created between 1889 and 1915 on these rivers to form the West River water supply system. Originally constructed in 1890, Lake Chamberlain was enlarged in 1958 to over five times its original size.

Recreation permit holders can hike along the shores of two of these reservoirs, Lake Bethany and Lake Chamberlain.

Lake Chamberlain Trail Guide

Eric Stone Trail (white rectangle) 2.4 miles.

This trail offers some beautiful views of Lake Chamberlain. In the spring and summer look for bluebirds that nest in this area. Bluebirds are making a comeback in Connecticut, thanks to many bluebird houses put up by volunteers. As farmland and hollow fence posts disappear, bluebirds are dependent on these special houses for nesting sites.

Sargent River Loop (green circle) 1.2 miles.

This trail is named for the Sargent River that feeds into the Lake Chamberlain reservoir. The trail passes through a wide range of forest types, including a larch plantation, hardwood swamp, and transition hardwoods. Club moss or ground pine, an evergreen plant about six inches tall, is abundant. These small club mosses have been around for 300 million years, but some now extinct species once grew as big as trees.

Old Field Trail (purple circle) 0.5 miles. Small animals like chipmunks and red squirrels make their homes in the stone walls once used in farming along the Old Field Trail. You will also find a good hill for cross-country skiing here.

Cabin Trail (red circle) 0.4 miles.

This short alternate trail offers a nice view of the lake through the trees.

Greenway Connection (blue square with yellow dot) 1.7 miles. A link in the chain of trails that form the Woodbridge Greenway, this trail enters Water Authority property on Route 63. The trail eventually heads south where it crosses, and then follows, Sperry Road (which is closed to through traffic each winter). Before climbing southeast to Dillon Road, the trail traverses a small stream on the old Woodbridge Glen Road.

Stony Loam Trail (purple triangle) 0.5 miles.

This trail starts at the west end of the Lake Chamberlain dam and connects Chamberlain's trail system to the Woodbridge Greenway. It is named for the dominant soil type in the area.

Spur Trails. Orange, blue, green and red triangles. These short connecting trails connect our trails with public roads.

