

Conneaut Lake

Watershed Fact Sheet

From "Phase I Diagnostic-Feasibility Study of Conneaut Lake, Crawford County, PA"
EPA Grant CL-993031-01-0; by the Crawford Conservation District/Coastal Environmental Services

Conneaut Lake is the largest natural lake in Pennsylvania. It is a state-owned lake located in Summit and Sadsbury Townships of Crawford County. Its watershed is in Hayfield, Sadsbury, Summerhill, Summit, and Vernon Townships.

Inlet Run is the main inlet to the lake and Conneaut Outlet, which empties into Conneaut Marsh and eventually French Creek, is the outlet. French Creek is a tributary of the Allegheny River.

Geology: During the melting of the Wisconsin ice sheet (Pleistocene Epoch), a rebuilding and readvance of the ice occurred. A tongue of ice came down north of present Conneaut Lake and spread out into the area surrounding the lake. When the ice tongue melted away, a large mass of ice remained in the position of the current lake while outwash was poured into the valley around the ice block on all sides. By the time the mass of ice melted, outwash was no longer being poured into the valley, so that a water filled kettle remained. (Shepps, 1962)

Elevation: 1,073 feet (327m) above mean sea level.

Lake Surface Area: 947 acres (383 hectares)

Watershed Area: 16,350 acres (6,617 hectares)

Average Depth: 27 ft

Maximum Depth: 69 feet*

Lake Volume: 25,300 acre-ft*

Shoreline Length: 7.2 miles*

Mean Discharge: 43,680 acre-ft per year.

Hydraulic Residence Time: 211 days

Flushing Rate: 1.73 times per year

*Ostrowsky and Owen (1989)