



Regulations

To help ensure a safer, more enjoyable recreation experience while visiting Mill Creek Dam, Bennington Lake and Rooks Park, please note some important rules:

- Fires are permitted only within designated grills or rings.
- Use of fireworks, projectile devices and paintball guns are not permitted.
- Overnight camping is not permitted.
- Boats with gasoline-operated motors may not be used on Bennington Lake.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
- Pets must be leashed at Rooks Park and on the north levee trail along Mill Creek.
- Motor vehicles must remain on designated roadways and parked in designated parking spaces only.
- The complete rules and regulations governing public use of Corps water resource development projects are available on bulletin boards and at the Mill Creek Office located on Reservoir Road.



General Information

Rooks Park

Hours: 7 a.m. to sunset
Open to vehicle traffic from
April 1 - October 15
Open year-round to foot traffic

Bennington Lake

Hours: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Open year-round

Phone Numbers

Mill Creek Dam Office
509-527-7160
Emergencies 911
Sheriff Non-emergency
509-527-3265

Mill Creek Office

3211 Reservoir Road
Walla Walla, WA 99362
millcreek@usace.army.mil



www.nww.usace.army.mil



www.facebook.com/millcreekdam



Summer 2012



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



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History

In the early 1900s, public concern about the frequent flooding of Walla Walla prompted Virgil B. Bennington, then-president of the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, to lobby the U.S. Congress for flood protection.

Development of the Mill Creek Dam system was authorized in the 1938 Flood Control Act. The improved Mill Creek channel and off-stream storage reservoir were completed in 1942.

In 1992, the reservoir was officially named Virgil B. Bennington Lake.



Rooks Park

Visitors can participate in a wide variety of recreational activities at Rooks Park. The 18-acre park includes a reservable picnic shelter, sand volleyball court, playground, horseshoe pit, group fire rings, picnic sites with tables, BBQ grills and ADA-accessible restrooms.

Large, open areas allow room for football and soccer games, while small, secluded areas provide a quiet place to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

The park is open daily from 7 a.m. until sunset. The entrance is open year-round to walk-in traffic, but seasonally closed to vehicles from October 15 to April 1 with reduced amenities operated in the park to accommodate winter conditions.

For reservations contact 1-877-444-6777
or visit recreation.gov

Bennington Lake

Bennington Lake provides a place for people to get outdoors without having to get out of town.

In the spring, water is diverted from Mill Creek to the lake after the risk of flooding has passed. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the lake each spring with rainbow trout.

Boating on the lake is limited to paddling, rowing, and wind- or electric-motor-powered vessels. This policy protects the lake from unwanted pollutants associated with gasoline-operated motors and provides maximum space for vessels compatible with the lake's size.

Picnic tables, shelters and restrooms are available at the lake parking lot. Park benches and shelters along the trails provide resting areas to enjoy views of the lake and the Blue Mountains.

Hunting is permitted around Bennington Lake in the areas designated on the map.



Trails

More than 20 miles of recreation trails offer scenic views and wildlife-watching opportunities throughout the Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake areas. Trail surfaces vary from pavement, gravel or dirt.

In 2012, the Department of the Interior designated the trail system on the south side of Mill Creek and around Bennington Lake as a National Recreation Trail.

The trails around the lake meander through open grasslands and wooded areas set against a picturesque backdrop of the Blue Mountains.

Along Mill Creek, the south-shore trail consists of well-compacted gravel. The north-shore trail, jointly managed by the Corps and local government, offers a paved surface which extends along the creek into the City of Walla Walla.

Visitors use the trails in many different ways, such as walking, horseback riding and biking. An e-Hike audio file is available for downloading at: www.facebook.com/millcreekdam

