

The Schoharie Reservoir
Year Completed: 1926
Capacity: 17.6 billion gallons
Watershed size: 316 square miles

Introduction

The **Schoharie Reservoir** is a small reservoir in the Catskill Mountains of New York State that was created to be one of 19 reservoirs that supplies New York City with water. It was created by impounding Schoharie Creek. Portions of it lie in the towns of Conesville and Gilboa.

History

Even after the Ashokan Reservoir was created as New York City's 13th reservoir and the Kensico Reservoir was completed soon after to store its water, the water supply was still insufficient for the city's high population. A search for a new location led to the village of Gilboa, New York, which was purchased and its residents evacuated through condemnation.

Site preparation destroyed most of the area's trees and buildings up to the water line. The dam was built during the early 1920s out of stone bricks. Flooding was completed in 1924 and the reservoir put into service. The village of Gilboa was relocated to the west; traces of it can still be seen during a drought. The resulting reservoir, the northernmost of the New York City system, is located 110 miles northwest of New York City.

The resulting reservoir consists of a single 6-mile basin, and holds 17.6 billion US gallons of water at full capacity, making it one of the smaller New York City reservoirs. Put into service in 1926, the Schoharie Reservoir provides 9 million people with approximately 15-16 % of their annual water supply needs. It is also the smaller of the two reservoirs which, along with the Ashokan Reservoir, make up the New York City Catskill Water System.

Water from the Schoharie Reservoir flows to New York City through the 16-mile-long Shandaken Tunnel, and empties into the Esopus Creek at Shandaken. Another 11 miles down the Esopus it empties into the Ashokan Reservoir. From there water enters the 92-mile Catskill Aqueduct to the Kensico Reservoir, then to New York City.