

Ashland and the Loch Raven Reservoir



Ashland backs to the 1600 acre [Loch Raven Reservoir Cooperative Wildlife Management Area](#) which is owned and managed by the City of Baltimore. The area is open to hiking, boating, bird watching, and horseback riding year-round. The reservoir is also managed for a wide variety of fish species and offers many fishing opportunities. The area is home to dozens of species of birds and animals. At the bridge just north of Ashland on the NCR trail, beaver, river otters and great blue herons can often be spotted.

The Loch Raven dam was built in 1881 to direct water to Baltimore City lakes and increase the city's water supply. The large reservoir that we are now familiar with had its beginnings in

1914, when a 51-foot dam was built and water from the Gunpowder River began filling up behind it, eventually creating a man-made lake containing 1.5 billion gallons of water.

In 1923, the dam height was increased to 240 feet, its current height, and the reservoir was created, now holding 23 billion gallons of water, enough to sustain the entire State of Maryland for approximately 50 days. The Loch Raven Reservoir provides drinking water for the City of Baltimore and is fed by the Big Gunpowder Falls.



When the Loch Raven dam was built in 1914, it submerged the town of Warren. (Maryland.gov.) Warren had been home to cotton, flour, and grist mills, three churches, a school, general store, post office, and more than 900 residents. After the dam construction project was approved, Warren residents learned that city officials had been quietly, some say secretly, negotiating with the Warren Manufacturing Co. to buy-out not only the mills, but the whole town. In 1922, after several years of legal haggling, the citizens were forced to leave, the mills and town were

dismantled, and eventually the town of Warren disappeared under the reservoir. Warren had been located near the Warren Rd. Bridge. Old building foundations can be found throughout the reservoir, especially in the woods near Merryman's Point, where members of the Merryman family lived prior to the dam being built.

(<https://lochraventrails.com/about-loch-raven-reservoir/>). Learn more about the town of Warren [here](#).

Other facts about Loch Raven:

- At the [Loch Raven Fishing Center](#) off Dulaney Valley Road you can rent motor boats, row boats, canoes and kayaks.
- Portions of *The Blair Witch Project* were filmed at Loch Raven Reservoir.
- The reservoir has approximately 50-70 miles of [hiking trails](#).
- The original cost of the dam was 5 million dollars, approximately 120 million in today's dollars.
- Maryland has no natural lakes, Deep Creek, Lake Habeeb and all the others were created by damming rivers and are thereby truly reservoirs. [<http://www.mgs.md.gov/esic/fs/fs15.html>]
- Loch Raven Reservoir is the largest body of water located entirely within Baltimore County (Liberty Reservoir is larger but it spans both Baltimore and Carroll Counties).