

Silver Lake—A Natural Haven

Perhaps you were drawn here by the lake's beauty or by the opportunities it offers for fishing, recreating, and solitude. You're not the only one attracted to this place—the lake has long been a magnet for humans.

White settlers

In the 1880s, Frank Chandler, missionary and owner of Silver Lake, built a road from Goshen to the lake through Leicester Hollow and erected a beautiful 50-60 room hotel/seminary at this site. Until it was abandoned in 1919, the hotel—with its motto of “Godliness, Holiness and Cleanliness”—offered respite and religious instruction. The hotel burned to the ground around 1940.

The steep, 670-foot drop from Silver Lake to Lake Dunmore enticed hydroelectric developers. Chandler sold the water rights to Hortonia Light and Power Co. in 1911. To ensure a steady water supply, the company diverted water from Sucker Brook into Silver Lake. From the bridge east of the picnic area, you can watch this water rush down the open concrete flume to the lake. Silver Lake Dam, at the lake's northwest end, controls the flow of water to the generator at Lake Dunmore.



For Moosalamoo Association Information:
Call 1-800-448-0707 or visit www.moosalamoo.org
For Green Mountain National Forest Information
Call 1-802-388-4362 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/index.htm

Native Americans

On warm summer days, you may spot a canoe or two on the lake. Hundreds of years ago, a similar sight could have greeted you. Archeologists have discovered two dugout canoes at the bottom of the lake, remnants of Native American inhabitants of Silver Lake. Other artifacts attest to their presence—tools made of quartzite, the hard angular rock visible in many of the outcroppings around the lake.



Moosalamoo