

# Raystown Lake 50th Anniversary Celebration

October 2023-September 2024

## Purpose

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Friends of Raystown Lake, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau and other community partners will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Raystown Lake from October 2023 (the anniversary of dam construction completion in 1973) through September 2024. A special commemoration ceremony will be held on 6 June 2024 - the anniversary of Vice President Ford's dedication of the Raystown Dam.

Free events happening 31 May 2024-10 June 2024 on the Raystown Lake project property will be hosted as a Challenge Partnership and may not need USACE special event permits. Events happening at other times, impeding access to an otherwise public area, or including participation fees or tickets should follow the special event permitting guidelines through the USACE.

Due to Raystown Lake's tremendous impact, both literally and figuratively, to the Huntingdon County landscape, the partners hope attractions and communities in the surrounding area will commemorate the anniversary in their own ways.

Beginning in January 2023, the partners will hold monthly meetings at 6pm on the second Thursday of each month to communicate the progress of planned events and other commemorations. Representatives from any business, individual, organization or community planning independent commemorations are encouraged to attend. The monthly meetings will be held in the same location as the monthly Friends of Raystown Lake meetings, which is typically Hoss's Steak & Sea House in Huntingdon, but may change from time to time.

## Commemoration Ideas

- Antique boat show
- Art exhibitions
- Chalk the Walk
- Classroom lesson plans
- Clean-up events
- Commissioned artwork
- Concerts/performances
- Conservation projects
- Disc golf tournaments
- Fireworks
- Fishing tournaments
- Glow swim
- Guided bike tours
- Guided dam tours
- Guided hikes
- Guided paddle tours
- Guided power plant tours
- History exhibitions
- Holiday light show
- Lighted boat parade
- Merchandise
- Music competitions (banjo, fiddle, etc.)
- NPR "StoryCorps" recording
- "Old Raystown Dam" reunion
- Paddling sojourn
- Parasailing
- Poetry contest
- Postal cancellations
- Race events
- Ranger reunion
- Raystown Ski Club reunion
- School field trip programs
- Seaplane fly-in
- Speakers
- Special Jr. Ranger Badge
- Special Proud Mary cruises
- Special publications
- Time capsule
- Tree plantings
- Winter festival
- Educational programs
  - Fly fishing
  - Hunter safety
  - Intro to disc golf
  - Intro to kayaking
  - Intro to mountain biking
  - Intro to SCUBA
  - Leave No Trace ethics
  - Safe boating
  - Shore fishing
  - SUP yoga
  - Swimming instruction
  - Water skiing 101

# Partner Roles

## Friends of Raystown Lake

- Depositor for any funds collected through sponsorship or main celebration ticket revenue
- Event volunteer coordination
- Meeting coordination

## Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau

- Coordinate the placement of paid advertising (if any is budgeted)
- Coordinate local public relations and outreach
- Coordinate travel writer outreach
- Maintain a comprehensive public calendar of commemorative events
- Provide online event ticketing through FareHarbor for events needing tickets

## US Army Corps of Engineers

- Process permit applications for paid events and events outside the main celebration time of 31 May - 10 June 2024
- Coordinate Challenge Partnership administration
- Schedule use of facilities for commemoration events
- Logistics for all ranger-led programming
- Coordinate with Baltimore District press office for press releases, media kits
- Dignitary invitations/protocols

## Event planning partners

- Apply for event permit if holding the event on the Raystown Lake Project
- Apply for municipal event permit where applicable
- Contact HCVB staff for help with on-line ticketing/registration if needed
- Communicate event details to Hanah Thatcher - [hanah@raystown.org](mailto:hanah@raystown.org) as soon as they are confirmed
  - The more details we have the better
  - Please provide as many hi-res images, logos and videos as possible
  - The earlier we have information, the earlier we can start promoting and building interest
- Keep the group informed of planning progress at monthly meetings



# Key Anniversary Dates by month

- October 1968 – Construction on the new dam begins. (Daily News)
- October 1973 - Green Construction completes contract work on Raystown Dam construction
- October 5, 1962 – After 25 years of debate, the Senate and the House give approval for a \$32.5 million new, much larger dam on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River, a project designed for flood control and to make the area a recreation haven. (Daily News)
- April 8, 1971 – Old Raystown dam is breached. (Daily News)
- June 19-23, 1972 - Tropical Storm Agnes produces 7-9" of rainfall in the Raystown Branch basin. "Flood flows in the Juniata River basin, though outstanding, were generally less than those for the 1936 flood. The uncompleted dam on Raystown Branch near Huntingdon, Pa. impounded about 159,000 acre feet of flood waters in Raystown Lake during the flood, thus reducing peak flows on Raystown Branch and on Juniata River downstream from Raystown Branch. Peak flows of the main stem of Juniata River were generally the greatest since the 1936 flood; at the most downstream gaging station at Newport, Pa. (site 274), discharge was almost as great as that of the 1936 flood and would have been greater had it not been for upstream flood storage." (US Geological Survey <https://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/0924/report.pdf>)
- June 6, 1974 – Vice President Gerald R. Ford speaks at the dedication of Raystown Lake, marking the culmination of the recreation/flood control project. (Daily News)
- December 29, 1974 – Raystown Lake hits recreational pool level, opening the lake to motor boats. (Daily News)
- March 6, 1975 – Raystown Lake surface elevation reaches recreational pool level of 787.5 feet (240 meters) above sea level for the first time. (US Geological Survey <https://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/1978/0042/report.pdf>)
- 
-