Since the summer of 2018, a contractor for CPW has been RECONSTRUCTING THE DAM AT SYLVAN LAKE STATE PARK.

Dam built in the 1940’s

The dam was built nearly 70 years ago and does not meet today’s safety standards. The project will prevent future failures by armoring it against a large flood event.

Construction progress

The contractor has completed installation of a new outlet works and much of the dam armoring is complete. The ambitious construction schedule called for significant completion in October of 2018 and filling of the lake over the winter. Weather has not cooperated and construction had to be postponed until spring, 2019. The lake level was raised for the winter to ensure fish survival and a temporary dam has been removed. A new contractor has been hired and is scheduled to have most of the project complete by fall of 2019. Due to the need for regrading and revegetation, the tentative opening date of the lake area is mid-summer 2020.

Some facilities will be open through construction

The lake will not be filled - the reservoir area and campground will remain closed to public use. The upper cabins at the reservoir, a portion of the West Brush Creek Trail, the east side of the park, and the visitor center will remain open. The road to the lake will be open for public access to the national forest.

Recreational opportunities

Although lake fishing will not be available, hiking, creek fishing, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing are available.

Learn more online at:
http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/SylvanLake

Timeline

Winter 2018-19 — Near normal operations
Spring 2019 — Dam construction commences as weather permits
Summer 2019 — Construction continues
Fall 2019 — Near completion of construction
Winter 2019-20 — Some facilities open as progress will allow and filling of the reservoir
Spring 2020 — Restoration of lake area, campgrounds. Park use to be determined
Summer 2020 — Re-open area as soon as progress allows