

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Hobart Reservoir Dam was originally built in 1877 and reconstructed after a breach in 1956. Currently, the Dam is undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation to restore safety and improve operations. Located in the remote alpine region east of Lake Tahoe, Hobart Reservoir is one of the three critical water components of the Marlette Lake Water System, which supplies municipalities across Northern Nevada including Carson City, Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City. Hobart Dam currently faces significant safety risks that, if not fixed, could cause a catastrophic failure and affect downstream communities in Washoe Valley. The Hobart Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation project is a critical public safety and infrastructure project that protects downstream communities, ensures water supply reliability, and modernizes a 150-year-old earthen embankment structure using current engineering standards.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How long will this project take?
 - The construction began in May 2026 and is expected to reach final completion by July 2027.
- Why is this project necessary?
 - The aging infrastructure does not meet current safety standards. Dams require periodic maintenance and upgrades to address aging infrastructure, meet modern safety standards, and reduce risks associated with extreme weather events such as heavy snowpack, runoff, or seismic activity.
- Will Hobart Reservoir be drained?
 - Hobart Reservoir has been drained to provide a safe working environment during construction. A bypass system is currently in place to maintain natural flow into Franktown Creek downstream of the project site. Upon project completion, Hobart Reservoir will be allowed to fill to normal water levels and stocked with Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and other sportfish species by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.
- How long will it take for Hobart Reservoir to return to normal water levels?
 - It is anticipated that Hobart Reservoir will return to normal water levels by the beginning of the 2027 construction season. There are multiple springs

that feed into the reservoir and operators have historically seen water levels rise in a manner of a few weeks.

- Will there be trail closures?
 - Trails will be closed during construction hours, typically from 5am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Trail closures are subject to change without notice depending on construction needs. Additionally, Hobart Reservoir will remain closed and inaccessible for fishing and recreation for the 2026 summer season (<https://parks.nv.gov/news/hobart-reservoir-dam-rehabilitation-underway>).

- Is the dam currently unsafe?
 - This project is preventative and proactive. Rehabilitation ensures the dam continues to meet modern safety standards rather than responding to an immediate failure risk.

- What safety measures are in place during construction?
 - Controlled access zones, on-site safety personnel, monitoring of dam conditions, and emergency response planning are all in place during construction.

- How will Virginia City obtain its water?
 - Virginia City receives water from the Marlette Lake Water System, which is composed of multiple sources including Marlette Lake, Hobart Reservoir, and the East Slope Catchment System. The Hobart Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation has been phased to ensure water from the system will be adequate to supply Virginia City throughout construction.

- How can I stay informed about the project?
 - Check the Nevada State Public Works website for any updates to significant changes in the project schedule. The Nevada State Parks website will be updated as needed to provide information on trail closures.