

Dane County Parks Tenney Lock and Spillway Facility

Background

Tenney Lock and Spillway has been maintained and operated by Dane County since 1981. Prior to this time it was operated by the City of Madison. The facility includes a breakwall and safe harbor, the Sheriff's Marine Enforcement Bureau boathouse and a sanitary dump station. The number of users is approximately 10,000 boats annually.

The first dam located at this site was constructed in 1847 as an early mill and brewery. The first lock and dam was reconstructed in 1896 to allow for shallow drafting boats to move between the lakes in a dredged channel of the river. Prior to this time, the river was a shallow meandering river flowing through wetlands leading to Lake Monona. In 1958, the lock and dam were reconstructed to provide improved navigational access and water control through the river. The facility was updated in 2006.

During normal flows the water level in Lake Mendota is maintained at an average height of five feet above the water level of Lake Monona.

Use of the Tenney Lock

There is a user fee for use of the lock- the fee is charged when boats use the lock to go up the river towards Lake Mendota. Annual and Daily Permits are available on site or can be purchased online at <https://www.reservedane.com/permits.aspx>.

Boat height is the determining factor for lock use through the Tenney facility. The Lock gates lift upward to allow ingress and egress for the chamber. The water depth in Lake Mendota determines the clearance under the upper gate. Under normal water conditions from May through September, the clearance to pass under the lock gate will be within the range of 6 to 6.5 feet. The clearance height for bridges in the Yahara River between Lakes Mendota and Monona may also be a factor for travel in the river. The clearance height will be determined by the water level in Lake Monona.

<u>Boat Clearance Height (Normal Water Conditions)</u>	6.0 feet
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Chamber Specifications

Total Length:	77.0 feet
Total Width:	19.5 feet
Total Depth:	11.5 feet

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