

Wildwood Seasonal Camper Update

June 2021

Welcome back! As everyone settles back in to what we hope is a relaxing and more normal summer, there are a few updates and items that we would like to bring to your attention.

Waste Management Area

Please remember that the waste management area is for regular household garbage and recycling only. It is not intended for large items or hazardous materials. Large items such as furniture, mattresses, BBQs, scrap metal, lumber, etc. are not accepted.

A sign outlining acceptable materials is located in the waste management area. The area is monitored by video surveillance and staff will follow up with anyone leaving materials that are not acceptable.

Cardboard boxes should be broken down (flattened) before placing them in the recycling bins to ensure adequate space is available during peak times.

Leaves and other plant material can be dropped off in the area beside the waste bins. Please use a compostable paper bag and do not leave your plastic bags or containers. This material should not be left in any other location; putting it at the backs of campsites can introduce non-native species as well prevent native species from growing in those areas. Help us keep Wildwood healthy.

Reservoir Update

An [update regarding Wildwood Reservoir levels](#) was emailed to you recently. Please take time to read this update and be aware of restrictions that will be implemented this season. There is a link to the update on our website homepage and copies are available at the gatehouse and registration offices. A “no wake” restriction for the entire reservoir is expected to begin by July 16th.

Parking on Overnight Sites

In 2020, some overnight campsites were not opened to help reduce registration line ups as well as create better spacing between visitors. This year, changes implemented to our registration office as well as on many of the overnight sites have permitted all sites to be opened for the season.

As provincial restrictions have eased, people are eager to return to outdoor activities and camping reservations have increased across the province. With that in mind, we ask that Seasonal Campers either park on their own site or in the additional parking areas. Please do not park on the overnight sites. This practice can be quite frustrating for our visitors when they arrive.

Washrooms & Laundromat

Current provincial restrictions require a mask to be worn while inside the washroom facilities. The showers and laundromat are all open for the season. The laundromat is open 24 hours/day to give visitors additional time and space.

Swimming Pool

Unfortunately, the pool will remain closed this season. Early in the year, staff spent considerable time and effort preparing to have upgrades completed and developing protocols to ensure the safety of visitors, with the hope that the pool could be opened. The safety of our visitors and staff is paramount and we are unable to maintain our pools according to the requirements of the local health unit and legislative restrictions during COVID-19.

Planning a Project on your Site?

If you plan on doing work on your campsite, a building permission form must be completed. These forms are available at the gatehouse and registration buildings. Once submitted, staff will review and contact you before any work on your site is started. Approval is required to ensure the proposed work falls within our CA policies and regulations. This process also maintains consistency with what is being done on other campsites and reduces risks associated with buried lines.

Mail & Packages

We have experienced an increase in the number of deliveries and mail to seasonal sites this year. Please remember that we do not accept mail delivered to the Conservation Area. Make sure that all personal mail is appropriately addressed to your residence or PO box.

Controlling European Gypsy Moth

People are finding Gypsy Moth caterpillars throughout Wildwood CA. These invasive, non-native insects are easy to identify: a mature Gypsy Moth caterpillar is approximately 6 cm long, and has pairs of dots along its back – five pairs of blue dots, followed by six pairs of red dots.



The caterpillars feed mainly on deciduous trees and shrubs. Their favourite foods include oak, maple, birch, and serviceberry. In some areas of southern Ontario and elsewhere, the caterpillars can be found in such large numbers that they are defoliating trees. While this might not immediately kill a tree, it may be harmful if a tree is already stressed due to other factors.

Last winter, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority removed Gypsy Moth egg masses from trees on Authority property to help protect trees and shrubs from these invasive, non-native insects. Staff at Wildwood removed more than 5100 egg masses, each containing 100 -1000 eggs.

How can you help?

During the summertime, control efforts need to focus on the caterpillars, and you can help! As the caterpillars mature, they come down from the crown of the tree during the heat of the day to seek shade. At this stage, you can trap the caterpillars on the tree trunk. To make a trap, wrap a strip of burlap, approximately 45 cm (17 inches) wide, around the tree trunk at chest height. Tie a rope around the middle of the burlap and fold the upper portion down to form a skirt, with the rope acting as a belt. The caterpillars will crawl under the burlap to escape the sun and become trapped. Later in the day, lift the burlap, pick off the caterpillars, and dispose of them in soapy water. You may notice staff doing this work in areas of the campground to help protect vulnerable trees.

Check out these [instructions](#) and [video](#) from the City of Toronto on how to make a burlap tree wrap.

Questions?

If you have questions about any of the information in this update, please contact any of the following staff.

- Paul Switzer, Superintendent, switzerp@thamesriver.on.ca, 519-284-2931 ext 1431#
- Dave Griffin, Assistant Superintendent, griffind@thamesriver.on.ca, 519-284-2931 ext 1424#
- Ryan Mullin, Assistant Superintendent, mullinr@thamesriver.on.ca, 519-284-2931 ext 1428#