

Wildwood Conservation Area: Update for Reservoir Users, June 2021

“No Wake” Restriction for Wildwood Reservoir expected to begin on July 16

UTRCA Dams & Reservoirs

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) operates [three large dams and reservoirs](#).

Fanshawe Dam and Reservoir:

- Reduces flood damages downstream, mainly within the City of London.

Wildwood and Pittcock Dams and Reservoirs:

- Assist in reducing flood damages in downstream communities, and
- Support downstream water quality and aquatic habitat by supplementing stream flow during the dry summer and fall months.

How is Wildwood Reservoir operated?

Wildwood Reservoir is normally filled during the late winter/early spring by storing runoff from snowmelt and rain. Beginning in mid to late June, the stored water is gradually released to supplement downstream flows. Over the course of the summer and fall, the reservoir is slowly drawn down as water is released.

Spring 2021 Low Water

Precipitation has been below normal for the past several months across the Upper Thames River watershed. The watershed received only 37% of the long term normal amount of precipitation for May, and 48% of normal for March to May. Stream flows are also well below normal for this time of the year.

As a result of the ongoing dry conditions, in May, the UTRCA issued a Level 1 Low Water Advisory for the Upper Thames River watershed. The dry weather is continuing and the watershed has now moved into the next level, with a [Level 2 Low Water Advisory](#).

How is the dry weather affecting Wildwood Reservoir?

Due to months of below normal precipitation, Wildwood Reservoir is more than one metre below its summer target elevation. Unless we get significant rainfall, we expect the reservoir water level in July to be similar to what would normally be seen in September.



How will the low reservoir levels affect users?

Boating Restrictions

In a typical summer, as the reservoir is gradually lowered, areas where boating is possible in the spring and early summer are not accessible in the late summer and fall. This year, if we do not receive significant rainfall, a "no wake" restriction for the entire reservoir may be implemented as early as July 16th to ensure the safety of users. Additional boating restrictions may be implemented as water levels decrease.

Boat Launch

The boat launch dock will be moved to the extended ramp location, which has a longer concrete pad, to ensure enough depth for boat trailers. Using the extended ramp will restrict boat traffic to one lane for launching and exiting the reservoir. The boat launch is typically moved to this location in September.

Back Country Camping

Wildwood's four back country campsites have portable toilets located on site. These portable toilets are emptied as required by a hose and pump system installed on a boat. As the shoreline widens due to the lower water level, the length of hose and capability of the pump become an issue. Staff are investigating options to address this problem, but we may need to close some of the back country campsites earlier than expected.

Wet Docks

Wildwood's wet docks will also be impacted by the lower reservoir levels. Depending on the size of the watercraft, we expect that boats may need to vacate as early as August 1st-15th.

Wet dock permit holders will be permitted to store their boat in the dry dock as an alternative for the remainder of the time they have paid for. Seasonal campers with docks will be permitted to keep their boats on their campsite. No additional dock slips will be rented for the 2021 season.

Boat Passes

It is important to understand the impact that the low water will have on the boating season before you purchase a boating pass. Refunds will not be issued. Our fee schedule provides options to consider based on your anticipated usage.

Motor/Sail Boat Fees*	No HST	HST Included
Day Pass*	\$13.27	\$15.00
Season Pass*	\$106.19	\$120.00

*Vehicle admission not included

Season Boat Pass

A 2021 season boat pass is \$120 (vehicle pass is extra). If you plan to visit more than 8 times this season, this is your best investment.

Daily Boat Pass

Paying the daily rate of \$15 for a boat pass (vehicle pass is extra) may be your best choice if you don't know how often you will visit.

Stamp Cards

Stamp Cards can be issued and stamped for Daily Vehicle and/or Motorized Boat Admission. After 5 visits, your 6th visit is free.

Please stay informed - check our website for updates: www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca