



SEASONAL CAMPER NEWSLETTER

wildwoodconservationarea.ca

The staff at Wildwood Conservation Area (CA) would like to welcome our seasonal campers back for 2022! The Campground will open at 8 am on Sunday, May 1, and close at 12 pm (Noon) on Sunday, October 16.

Registration & Payment

Seasonal camper registration will be by appointment only at the Wildwood Registration Office. Appointments are available starting on April 11.

How to Register

Book your appointment online [here](#).

- Please bring the following to your appointment at the registration office:
 - o A copy of the Seasonal Camper Registered Guest form (attached to this email). Please print, complete, and bring it with you. If you cannot print it off, please make your own list and bring it.
 - o Photo ID, Trailer Registration, and Insurance - You will be required to show photo identification with your address, the trailer registration (matching the address of the permit holder), and proof of liability insurance (minimum \$1 million). Unfortunately, we will not accept emailed copies. Staff only need to do a visual check – simply hold the items up to the plexiglass for staff to view.
 - o Please note that payment will not be accepted without all of the required information.

How to Pay

- Payment can be made via Visa, Mastercard, debit card, certified cheque, or money order. Please be sure to check your card's daily limit so that the funds are available at the time of payment.
- Please note that your swipe card will not be activated and camping will not be permitted until all the paperwork has been signed and staff have viewed the required information.



Campsite Access

- Seasonal campers will be permitted to drive into their campsites from April 11 to April 14 as well as April 19 through to opening on May 1. Campground vehicle access will be from 9 am to 3 pm.
- No overnight camping is permitted until May 1. Overnight stays at your seasonal campsite are prohibited without payment of the seasonal fees.

Late Payment Procedure

Payment must be made by 12pm (noon) on May 8, 2022. Campers with outstanding fees after this date will not be granted use of the CA until payment is made in full. After 12 pm (noon) on May 8, 2022, any outstanding payment will be subject to a \$100 late fee. The fee will increase by \$100 for every week that payment is not received. Payment including late fees must be received by May 22 or the site will be forfeited.

COVID-19 Update

Who would have thought that after two years we would still be talking about COVID-19 and the pandemic? Many of us are fully vaccinated, we have followed health and safety protocols such as physical distancing, handwashing, and masking, and the Province of Ontario has begun to lift some health directives, and yet the pandemic is still hanging on.

The good news for 2022 is operations in the UTRCA's Conservation Areas (CAs) are closer to "normal" -- but we aren't quite there yet. Our staff now have two years' experience in operating through the pandemic. While we have plans and procedures within the framework set out by local health units and the Province of Ontario, we still need to be flexible and ready to respond quickly to new public health directives.

With this in mind, please continue to monitor the CA websites, social media, and camper emails for any changes to our operations. As in previous years, please also watch for signs and notices that may be posted in the CAs with information for patrons.

Here is the link to our local health units for guidelines and directives with respect to social distancing, masking, and indoor/outdoor gathering sizes:

Wildwood CA: Huron Perth Public Health www.hpph.ca

Win Bi-Weekly Sewage Disposal

Seasonal campers who pay their seasonal camping fees before opening day 2022 will be entered into a draw to win bi-weekly sewage disposal for the 2022 season (\$340 value).

Winter Storage

Pay for Trailer Storage before September 30, 2022 and you will be entered into a draw for free 2022 Trailer Storage (\$350 value).

Electrical Safety

Site Inspections

Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) staff will return this year to ensure that our campground is free from electrical hazards. Many of you received letters from the ESA last season outlining deficiencies with your campsite's electrical system. Please retain a licensed electrical contractor and obtain a permit before having any electrical work done on your site.

Buried RV Trailer Cords

The ESA requires all RV electrical cords to be above ground and cannot be buried or placed underground in any way (e.g., in a plastic drainage pipe). These cords are not rated for direct burial and can create a shock hazard if the wire coating is compromised. Placing these cords in plastic drainage pipe often leads to the cords being submerged in water, also creating a shock hazard. Additionally, buried cords cannot be inspected for

damage or improper connections. Staff will continue to inspect all sites to ensure compliance when completing monthly risk management inspections.

Staff recognize the reasoning behind burying cords. We consulted the ESA about options, and we've listed a few here. Keep in mind that approval must be granted and a building permission application completed if additional patio stones are used.

Q: Can the electrical cord be strung between where it connects to the trailer and the utility post, provided it is not hung on or secured with metal objects?

A: Although it is possible to do this with non-conductive spacers, we request that this not be done due to concerns with aesthetics and the hazard created by the suspended cord.

Q: Can the cord be contained within some type of drainage tubing above ground, as long as the tubing won't hold/retain water?

A: Yes, non-conductive tubing may be used for protection as long as you can prove that the tubing will not retain water.

Q: Can the cord be enclosed inside an electrical conduit with each end being properly sealed? The cord end would have to be properly removed and installed, in this case.

A: No, it is not recommended that cords be altered in any way unless the cord end needs to be replaced due to damage.

Q: Can patio stones be laid along either side of the cord where it runs across the lawn?

A: Yes, this is a good solution and may provide adequate protection. This would require approval after a building permission form is completed. The size and number of patio stones would be limited to that required to protect the cord; additional walkways cannot be created.

Q: Could the cord be painted in a bright colour to make it more visible?

A: Yes, as long as the paint will not damage or deteriorate the cord in any way.

Electricity to Sheds

Campers who wish to install electricity to their sheds are not permitted to excavate or attach wiring to the receptacle post. Extension cords will not be permitted as a source of temporary or permanent wiring to a shed. Wiring will only be permitted if the shed is located directly next to the trailer and the conduit is securely attached to the shed from the trailer receptacle. Staff will continue to evaluate options for future seasons to minimize risks from buried cable, faulty wiring inside sheds, and appliances being kept in less than ideal situations.

Extension Cords

Extensions cords used outdoors (i.e. lighting), must be disconnected and stored indoors when not in use.

Working On Your Site?

If you plan on doing work on your campsite, talk to a Superintendent before starting! Before any work on your site, such as building a shed, deck, fire pit area, etc., please refer to the "Typical Site Layout" drawing. Approval is required to ensure the proposed work falls within our CA policies and regulations. Building permission forms are available on-line or can be picked up at the gatehouse and registration buildings. This process also maintains consistency with what is being done on other campsites and reduces risks associated with buried lines.

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. The waste removal company will not pick up the bin if any of these items are placed in or around the bin. This has the potential to leave us with full bins leading up to a busy weekend.

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 CA healthy.

Mail and Packages

We have experienced an increase in the number of deliveries and mail to seasonal sites. 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.

Parking on Overnight Sites

We ask that Seasonal Campers either park on their own site or in the additional designated parking areas. Please do not park on the overnight sites. This practice can be quite frustrating for our visitors when they arrive.

Controlling European Spongy Moth (formerly known as Gypsy Moth)

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has continued to remove Spongy Moth egg masses from trees on Authority property to help protect trees and shrubs from these invasive non-native insects. This year's generation of Spongy Moth caterpillars will hatch in the spring. Staff at Wildwood removed

over 5100 egg masses in March 2021. Each egg masses can contain 100-1000 eggs. In March of this year staff removed 835 egg masses within the same areas. The Spongy moth cycle occurs every 7 to 10 years with these invasive critters staying around for three to five years.

A mature Spongy Moth caterpillar is approximately 6 cm long, and can be identified by the 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. The young caterpillars will hang from trees on silk threads and can be carried long distances by the wind.

How Can You Help?

The caterpillars will hatch as the weather warms in April. At this point, egg mass removal is ineffective.

The young caterpillars feed throughout the day, but as they 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 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.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYf1F4-isRk>

Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram

Have you checked out our social media pages? These sites and our website are the best way to get the latest information about Wildwood, especially during the operating season.

Facebook - @WildwoodCA

Twitter - @WildwoodCA

Instagram - @wildwoodconservationarea

Tag us using #wildwoodconservationarea

For more information, please go to

www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca. You'll find information on fees, special events, rules and regulations, guides, available sites, and lots more!

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