



Wildwood Conservation Area: Update #1 for Reservoir Users, August 2022 **Low Reservoir Level: Potential boating restrictions possible before the end of August**

UTRCA Dams and 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 Pittock 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.

Wildwood Reservoir and Low Water Conditions

The Upper Thames River watershed has been in [Level 1 Low Water Conditions](#) since July 18, due to the drier than normal late spring/ early summer. As a result, Wildwood Reservoir is lower than usual for this time of year.

How will the low reservoir levels affect users?

Boating

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. Staff have started to mark the typical low water hazard areas with buoys and signs are posted at the launch ramp and docking areas to remind users of the hazards.

If we do not receive significant rainfall, restrictions such as increased no wake areas may need to be implemented before the end of August to ensure the safety of users. Further boating restrictions may be implemented as water levels decrease.

It is likely that the boat launch dock will be moved to the extended ramp location earlier than normal. The extended ramp has a longer concrete pad to ensure enough depth for boat trailers but restricts boat traffic to one lane for launching and for exiting the reservoir. The boat launch is typically moved to this location in September.

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.

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 in early to mid-September. Seasonal campers with docks will be permitted to keep their boats on their campsite.

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. Closure of some of the back country campsites before the end of the season is possible.

Stay Informed

Please stay informed by checking our website regularly for updates:

www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca