

A Message from our Superintendents Seasonal Campers

May 18, 2021

COVID-19 Update #3 - 2021

Opening Day delayed again

Fanshawe, Wildwood and Pittcock Conservation Areas were scheduled to open on May 20, following the six week provincial Stay at Home Order. However, on May 13 the provincial government extended that order until June 3, 2021. Our staff hope that seasonal camping will be permitted following this extension.

Limited day use activities available beginning May 21st

Starting Friday, May 21, the conservation areas will be open for limited day use opportunities, including trail access as well as reservoir and boat launch access for non-motorized watercraft (see question below re: boat launch/reservoir). Services such as picnic tables, shelters, equipment rentals (canoe, kayak, bikes) will not be available due to the provincial restrictions.

FAQs

Following are answers to some frequently asked questions as well as updates to our operations, based on the Stay at Home Order extension.

Can I camp during the extended Stay at Home Order?

No, the conservation areas remain closed to seasonal and nightly camping. Winter storage agreement dates have been extended.

Can I continue to check my trailer?

Yes. You will be required to stop at the gatehouse and identify yourself as a seasonal camper upon entering and staff will wave you through. Gates leading to the campground will continue to be closed, so you will need to walk to your trailer once you park in a designated parking area.

Can I prepare my trailer for the season during the extended order?

No. The winter storage agreement is still in effect and therefore, you are not permitted to prepare your site for the season. Sheds, decks and trailers are the only items permitted on the site at this time. Campfires, alcohol consumption, use of power tools, generators are strictly prohibited at this time.

With the increase in park visitors, it is in your best interest to ensure you don't bring valuables to your trailer in anticipation of opening your trailer.

Will staff be on site during the extended order?

Yes, there is a limited number of staff on site within the conservation areas. Gatehouses will be operational selling passes to day use visitors. Maintenance staff and security staff will also be on site throughout the day.

All UTRCA offices and buildings are closed to the public and many administration staff continue to work from home.

What will the fees be for 2021 and when can I register?

Although the gatehouses will open for the season on Friday, May 21, gatehouse staff will not be accepting seasonal payment or registration. Seasonal camping fees will be prorated based on the opening date. Once we know when our seasonal campgrounds can open, we will notify you of fees and the registration process.

What does this mean for the May long weekend?

For the second year in a row, the unofficial kick off to summer - the May long weekend - will not be what we all were looking forward to so eagerly. Typical long weekend activities such as camping, sitting around a campfire, watching fireworks, reconnecting with neighbours, and preparing the campsite for the upcoming summer are strictly prohibited, once again. The terms of the winter storage agreement are still in effect and must be adhered to. Staff will be on site throughout the long weekend to monitor the activities of park visitors.

Ideas for re-creating the May long weekend at home

As we have seen over this past year, there still are many fun activities that you and your family can enjoy while adhering to the Stay at Home Order. Keep the traditions established in 2020 in place for 2021 and have some fun at home:

- Re-create your campsite in your backyard
- Sit on your balcony, porch or front step and birdwatch
- Create a backyard scavenger hunt
- Cook s'mores on a campfire or BBQ in your yard (check restrictions in your area first)

When can I access the launch ramp/reservoir?

Fanshawe Reservoir will open on Friday, May 21:

- Non-motorized watercraft permitted (e.g., kayaks and canoes)
- Motorized watercraft with less than 9.9 hp motors permitted with permit

Pittock Reservoir will open on Friday, May 21:

- Non-motorized watercraft permitted (e.g., kayaks and canoes)
- Motorized watercraft will not be permitted until the Stay at Home Order is lifted

Wildwood Reservoir will open on Friday, May 21:

- Non-motorized watercraft permitted (e.g., kayaks and canoes)
- Motorized watercraft will not be permitted until the Stay at Home Order is lifted

All of the above activities are permitted during daylight hours only.

Please refer to the [UTRCA website](#) for specific conservation area information.

More Questions?

Staff will continue to keep you informed of updates or changes to the operations of our campgrounds, via email. If you don't have email, we ask that you stay in touch with fellow campers that do, so you are receiving the most up to date information.

The public is not permitted to enter UTRCA buildings at this time. Staff availability is limited, and the easiest way to get in touch is to call the park and leave a message. Staff check for messages daily.

- Fanshawe CA: 519-951-6181 ext 367
- Pittock CA: 519-539-5088 ext 1
- Wildwood CA: 519-284-2292 ext 1434

Stay informed about COVID-19 impacts on UTRCA programs and services

- fanshaweconservationarea.ca
- pittockconservationarea.ca
- wildwoodconservationarea.ca