

# High Lake Water FAQ's

## 1. Why is the Lake Level High?

- The lake level remains high due to fully saturated ground conditions and an unusually wet June.
- Hot weather in the coming days is expected to help groundwater return to normal levels.

## 2. Why are the Stop Logs not being Removed?

- The water level is currently over 2 feet above the stop logs, making their removal dangerous and nearly impossible.
- Stop logs are designed to maintain legal lake heights of 5.5 feet, and water exceeding this height flows over the top of the stop logs. The stop logs do not impede the lake flow.

## 3. Are There Trees and Weeds in the River?

- Paul, Matt, and Luke Gilbert recently removed three large trees obstructing the river, which, while not immediately impactful, will help once the ground is less saturated.
- Please acknowledge and appreciate their hard work and dangerous efforts in maintaining the river.

## Association Actions Regarding High Lake Water Issues

The Association has been actively addressing the high-water situation. Early last week, the river was inspected by Dave from Aquatic Weed and Paul Veldman to assess conditions and determine appropriate next steps. Following the inspection, the Association coordinated with Paul to remove three large trees obstructing river flow, an effort that required meticulous planning and execution. Additionally, Dave has been instrumental in advising the best time for weed spraying, noting that the weeds currently remain submerged. As such, spraying would not be effective at this time and will commence when the weeds reach the surface, focusing on the most troublesome areas. The river level continues to be evaluated daily to ensure proper timing and effectiveness of these measures.

## How Can You Help?

Community members are encouraged to assist in mitigating potential issues by removing unsecured items far from the shoreline. Ensure your watercraft is securely tied up and, if using a post, verify that it is tall enough to accommodate rising water levels without letting the rope slip over the top. This precaution is particularly vital if you plan to be away from the lakes for an extended period. Several paddle boats have already been found adrift due to the high-water levels.

## Why has the Lakes not been Closed to all Boats?

Regarding the closure of lakes to boating, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has specific criteria for implementing such measures. Currently, the lakes do not meet these criteria, as the water level is not encroaching close to residential homes. The primary concern for closures is the potential for boat wakes to exacerbate flooding and push water into homes. Until this threshold is met, boating activities will remain permitted.

## Residential Weed Spraying

As for the residential weed spraying by Aquatic Weed, this task was initially scheduled for last Thursday. However, due to the high-water levels, some areas of the lake are submerged, including certain sea walls, making spraying not possible currently. The Association will notify you when the spraying has been rescheduled.

## Submerged Hazards and Boating Safety

In addition to the challenges posed by high-water levels, community members should exercise extreme caution when navigating near shorelines. Submerged hazards, such as abandoned pier posts that are typically visible, may now be hidden beneath the water's surface. Certain docks are also completely underwater and could pose risks to both people and watercraft.

When boating on the four lakes, it is essential to adhere to the designated speed limits and respect "No Wake" zones. "No Wake" means operating at a trolling speed that produces no detectable wake. This precaution helps prevent further shoreline erosion and mitigates the risk of flooding. Your vigilance in following these guidelines ensures not only your safety but also the preservation of the lake environment for all.

## Paddle Boats

If you are missing a paddle boat, please reach out to Jean via email at [WestLakesPresident@gmail.com](mailto:WestLakesPresident@gmail.com).