



Orange Water and Sewer Authority

OWASA is Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services.

2020 Lake Recreation Season Guidelines: Updated July 6, 2020

Orange Water and Sewer Authority opened Cane Creek Reservoir and University Lake for recreation on a limited basis on Friday, May 29, 2020.

Both reservoirs are open to a reduced number of visitors via a reservation system, among other restrictions. Any visitors who arrive at the reservoir without a reservation will not be admitted. Please bring a photo identification matching the name on the OWASA-issued permit for entry.

To apply for a reservation, fill out the form on the Recreation page of the OWASA website during the designated time each week. If more applications are submitted than slots are available, a random drawing will take place. You may enter the drawing once each week.

OWASA will be charging fees associated with the recreation season. Since OWASA will not be renting equipment, assessed fees will include the lake use and boat launch fees. Payment of all fees will be limited to debit and/or credit cards to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Any applicant who receives a boating permit to either lake will be allowed EITHER one boat with a maximum of two occupants OR two individual kayaks under one permit. Non-boating permit slots will not be allowed a visitor. The gates to each reservoir will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. for entry to those with reservations. Once the gates are locked at 9 a.m., no other entries will be permitted – even if you were granted a reservation.

OWASA will not be renting equipment (i.e. boats, motors, PFDs, etc.) to visitors at this time. Boaters must supply all of their own equipment, and OWASA staff will continue to inspect equipment before allowing it to be used on the lakes.

In addition to our existing rules and regulations concerning use of our facilities, all visitors will be required to follow COVID-19-specific guidance posted at each reservoir and the directions of OWASA staff. The recreational offices will remain closed to the public. Restroom facilities will be open to the public. Hand sanitizer stations will be set up at various locations at each reservoir.

Physical distancing guidelines will be enforced in locations as needed throughout each site, including but not limited to boat launch locations and fishing from either piers or banks. Local and State orders require the use of face coverings when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

OWASA reserves the right to alter these policies as new information is available regarding the spread of COVID-19. Breaking any policies can lead to a warning or being banned from the lakes.

