
News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work on Lake Williams Dam to start this fall. Lake Williams to be lowered this summer. Water Street in York and Springfield Township to be closed after Labor Day. Fishing Derby entries must be purchased by April 30th.

York, Pennsylvania, April 19, 2018: The York Water Company will be doing planned work on their Lake Williams Dam this fall. The work includes the installation of a valve on the upstream face of the dam and the installation of a pipe liner at the 106 year old dam. According to York Water President, Jeffrey R. Hines, P.E.: "Although the dam is in excellent condition and has passed all safety reviews including an inspection each year, this work is necessary to keep the dam in readiness for many decades into the future. This work is also a prerequisite for additional work to rebuild the spillway and install roller compacted concrete onto the downstream face of the dam starting in 2019."

York Water is working with the PA Fish and Boat Commission, York County Parks, the Department of Environmental Protection, and other organizations to ensure that the stress on the aquatic life in Lake Williams is reduced as much as possible during this project.

York Water is partnering with York County Parks to sponsor a fishing derby from May 1st to July 9th. During the derby, there will be 100 specially tagged fish. Each tag corresponds to a cash prize between \$25 and \$500. A total of \$5,000 in prizes will be awarded. For more information on the fishing derby, please visit https://yorkcountypa.gov/images/pdf/Parks/2018_Fishing_Tournament_Poster.pdf. There will be a \$25 entry fee to participate and all proceeds will be used to restock the lake and promote fishing upon the completion of the project. Entries must be purchased prior to April 30th at Nixon Park or John Rudy Park.

York Water is also working with the Fish & Boat Commission to get approval to lift the creel and size limits starting May 1st. In addition, fishermen and women are asked to not release fish back into Lake Williams.

Lake Williams will be slowly lowered beginning just after July 10th, with a goal of being empty by Labor Day.

The bridge over Lake Williams will be closed starting September 4th, and will remain closed until the project is completed, which is expected to take up to one year. Detour signs will be posted, and most vehicles will likely use the Susquehanna Trail as a detour.

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The York Water Company
Lake Williams Dam Project Frequently Asked Questions
April 19, 2018

Q: Why is Lake Williams being lowered?

Lake Williams is being lowered in order for The York Water Company to complete planned work on the Lake Williams Dam, which includes the installation of a valve on the upstream face of the dam and the installation of a pipe liner at the 106-year-old dam. This work is also a prerequisite for additional work to rebuild the spillway and install roller-compacted concrete onto the downstream face of the dam starting in 2019. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is requiring this type of work to be completed on all dams in Pennsylvania.

Q: Is the dam in danger of breaking?

No. The dam is in excellent condition and has passed all safety reviews, including an inspection each year. The work is necessary to keep the dam in excellent condition for many decades into the future.

Q: When will you start draining the Lake?

We will begin slowly lowering Lake Williams just after July 10th, with a goal of being empty by Labor Day.

Q: When will the bridge over Lake Williams be closed?

The bridge on Water Street will be closed starting September 4th and will remain closed until the project is completed, which is expected to be at least one year. Detour signs will be posted, and most vehicles will most likely use the Susquehanna Trail as a detour. The bridge closure will be coordinated with PennDOT and DEP Dam Safety.

Q: What will happen to the fish in Lake Williams?

The York Water Company is working with the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), York County Parks, the Department of Environmental Protection, and other organizations to ensure that the stress on the aquatic life in Lake Williams is reduced as much as possible during this construction. York Water will encourage anglers to fish the lake and make good use of as many fish as they can before the lake is drawn down for construction purposes. For the fish remaining, many will simply swim through the open valve or be caught and released into the Codorus Creek below the dam.

Q: Can I take as many fish as I want?

York Water has asked the PFBC to lift creel and size limits starting May 1st. If approved by PFBC, there will be no limits on the number, size, or species of fish that can be taken from Lake Williams.

Q: Can I still fish and boat throughout the drawdown process?

At some point during the drawdown, for the safety of the public, Lake Williams will be posted off limits to fishing, boating, walking, and scavenging until the Company removes the postings. The trails around Lake Williams will remain open and fishing and boating will remain open on Lake Redman

Q: Will the water supply be negatively impacted during this process?

No. Our community and customers will continue to receive the same high-quality water that residents expect throughout this project.

Q: Once the project is completed, how long will it take to refill Lake Williams?

The refilling of the lake will be entirely dependent on rainfall and could take several months or longer.

Q: Once Lake Williams is refilled, will it be restocked with fish?

Once the dam rehabilitation work is complete and the Lake Williams reservoir is full, the Company will coordinate with PA Fish and Boat Commission and other organizations on methods, benefits, and need for restocking the lake with native fish species.