

Annual Lake Carroll Draw-Down

Why LCA lowers the lake level annually and clarification on multiple draw-downs.

By Mike Schmieder

During the first week of November, Lake Carroll conducts an annual draw-down (lowering) of the lake. The lake level is lowered to a level of 737' above sea level or, 3 feet below normal pool level. There are four reasons for doing this; 1.) It gives us the opportunity to evaluate the shoreline rip-rap, 2.) It provides Lakefront Property Owners an opportunity to repair their shorelines, 3.) It reduces the potential for damage to rip-rap by shifting ice and last, it aids in the freeze out of weeds in the shallow areas of the lake.

Historically, Lake Carroll has performed only one draw-down per year. Last year, the draw-down was performed as scheduled, however heavy rains shortly after the draw-down filled the lake back to pool level by Thanksgiving. Because of this, many Property Owners were unable to complete the required rip-rap repairs and with the mild winter, we did not see the weed freeze out we have seen in previous years.

At the October Board Meeting, the Lake Committee advanced a recommendation to the Board to consider additional lake draw-downs if this anomaly occurs again in the future. The following motion was approved last Friday night.

“Move to adopt policy to allow for additional lake draw-downs after the initial draw-down in early November. Subsequent draw-downs would be completed at Management’s discretion if the lake level rises to 737’ or higher prior to December 15. Additional draw-downs would enable lakefront property owners to complete scheduled rip-rap repairs and aid in the freeze out of weeds in shallow areas of the lake.”

A few Property Owners voiced a concern that multiple draw-downs may lead to low lake levels next spring if the spring rains don't bring our Lake back up to pool level. Their concerns are valid and although it's been many years since the lake hadn't come back up to pool level the following spring, it could happen. It is however very unlikely. As mentioned above, we dropped the lake by 3' last November it the lake came back to pool within a few weeks. Since the dam has been grouted, the dam continues to hold water better than it has in a decade. Though we would like to have the opportunity to do an additional draw-down if needed, a second draw-down would only be performed to lower the lake to the preferred winter elevation of 737' and no lower. Furthermore, additional draw-downs would only be performed until December 15th, about the time the lake starts to freeze. If you have any questions regarding the Lake and the new Lake Draw-Down policy, please feel free to contact our Lake Manager Joe Rush or myself.

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