

CITY OF WILLARD RESERVOIR

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

LOCATION: Two miles North of New Haven in Huron County on State Route 61 S.

The Willard Reservoir has a surface area of 199 acres at maximum water storage capacity of approximately 2.3 billion gallons. It's maximum depth of 46 feet is located near the eastern shoreline, with an average depth of 26 feet, with a total of 2.3 miles of shoreline.

Persons using the Willard Upground Raw Water Storage Reservoir do so at their own risk. The City of Willard assumes no liability for safety. No person on the Willard Upground Raw Water Reservoir property shall: throw, discharge or place any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the contamination, littering or pollution of such waters.

Please be courteous and respectful to others to help enhance everyone's recreation time!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are the hours open to the public at the reservoir?

A: 24-hours a day. The Water Treatment Plant Superintendent has the authority to set the hours which the reservoir is open to the public. However, bank fishing shall be permitted on a 24-hour basis but can be restricted to designated areas by the City.

Q: Is fishing permitted at the reservoir?

A: Fishing is allowed at your own risk in accordance with the fishing laws of the state. Helpful link: <http://www.ohiodnr.gov/fishingregulations>

Q: Can I fish overnight at the reservoir?

A: Yes, at your own risk in accordance with the fishing laws of the state but can be restricted to designated only areas by the City.

Q: Is ice fishing permitted?

A: Ice fishing is allowed at your own risk. Avoid the inlet and outlet pipe areas located in the south and east sides of the reservoir. We recommend not fishing alone and recommend taking ice safety precautions. Persons ice fishing shall do so in accordance with the fishing laws of the state. Persons shall not be permitted to bring any wooden or metal shanties or any liquid petroleum products onto the ice. And shall remove all of their items when leaving.

Q: What type of fish species are in the reservoir?

A: Fish of interest to anglers are: yellow perch, walleye, channel catfish, bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, rock bass, green sunfish, suckers, and carp that have been pumped into the reservoir from the Huron River.

Q: What kind of boats are allowed in the reservoir?

A: Boats are allowed at your own risk on the reservoir with electric motors only. Boats cannot be more than 25 feet in length and must contain an approved fire extinguisher. They also must contain all the necessary safety supplies to sustain any and all occupants as prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard. Boats must be seaworthy and meet U. S. Coast Guard standards for the conditions along with being operated in a manner not to exceed the maximum capacity recommendations of the manufacturer. Boat ramp area is located on the southwest corner of the reservoir near the main parking area. Water skiing and pulling any device behind a boat are prohibited. Boaters must obtain a permit.

Q: Do I need to register or obtain a permit for my boat?

A: A boat permit is needed. This permit can be obtained at Willard City Hall at the service desk, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the police station after hours. There is no permit fee and it is good for three years, then it must be renewed. Your boat registration is needed to receive the required permit for general public use of a watercraft on the reservoir.

Q: Are kayaks allowed in the reservoir?

A: Yes, but they should also obtain a boat permit from the service desk at City Hall. All kayakers should wear a life preserver. In 2019, we installed a kayak launcher for easier access in and out of the water for all skill levels.

Q: Is paddle boarding allowed?

A: No. Because we do not allow swimming, we feel paddle boarding is too dangerous to allow.

Q: Is wind surfing allowed at the Willard Reservoir?

A: No. Because we do not allow swimming, we feel the risk from wind surfing is too great to allow.

Q: Is overnight parking permitted in the parking areas?

A: Yes, but the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent has the authority to restrict the hours. However, parking is permitted on a 24-hour basis for bank fishing.

Q: Who do I call to report suspicious activity?

A: The Willard Police Department can be reached at 419-933-2561. In case of emergency, call 911.

Q: Are there any restroom facilities available at the reservoir?

A: Yes, a portable restroom is available near the main parking lot without running water.

Q: Who do I call to report poor restroom conditions?

A: Water Treatment Plant at 419-933-4001, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Q: Is swimming permitted at the reservoir?

A: No! Swimming, bathing, and wading are all prohibited.

Q: Should I be concerned with Harmful Algal Blooms?

A: Yes. Have fun and enjoy the reservoir but know that blue-green algae is present in many of Ohio's waters and their toxins may be too. Be alert! Avoid water that:

- Looks like spilled paint
- Has surface scum, mats, or films
- Is discolored or has colored streaks

- Has green globs floating below the surface

AVOID SWALLOWING THE WATER! For more information, visit www.ohioalgaefinfo.com or call 866-644-6224. Helpful link: http://www.epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/inland_lakes/hab_dog_livestock_infocard.pdf
Dogs should also avoid the water when harmful algal blooms are present.

Q: How many miles is the walking trail?

A: Approximately 2.3 miles.

Q: Are dogs allowed on the walking trail?

A: Yes, but they shall be restrained at all times on an adequate leash. We require you to clean up after your pet and properly dispose of the waste out of respect for others and the recreational environment.

Q: Are bicycles permitted on the walking trail?

A: Yes, however we expect you to be courteous to others and practice safety with sharing the path to improve everyone's experience.

Q: Is winter sledding permitted at the reservoir?

A: Yes, at your own risk. Venturing onto the reservoir ice is prohibited. However, ice fishermen shall be entitled to venture onto the ice at their own risk for fishing only. Ice boating, ice skating, and all other activity on the ice is prohibited.

Q: Is camping allowed at the reservoir?

A: No, unless given permission by the City of Willard for a designated area.

Q: Is hunting allowed on the reservoir property?

A: No, with the only exception being the lawful hunting of migratory birds pursuant to the State and Federal laws. However, that such hunting is only done in areas specifically designated for waterfowl hunting by the City with the advice of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. In addition, waterfowl hunters shall only hunt from within a duck hunting blind that meets the permit requirements and that is located within a designated area specifically for waterfowl hunting. Each application for a waterfowl hunting blind permit shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit that shall be refundable in accordance with the permit requirements. If the hunter is found to be in violation of a permit requirement, then the deposit shall be forfeited to the City and the violator shall be refused a waterfowl hunting blind permit for the following year. Permitted hunters shall follow designated hunting hours, not to be in violation of the State or Federal waterfowl regulations for hunting.

Q: Is walking allowed during waterfowl hunting season?

A: Yes, but only in the non-hunting designated area of the walking trail. The restricted walking area during hunting season is marked with signs seasonally on the walking trail.

Q: Who do I contact about reserving a waterfowl hunting blind spot?

A: The City of Willard service desk at City Hall at 419-933-2581, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Q: What do I have to do to set up a permitted waterfowl hunting blind in a designated area?

A: Contact the Willard Water Treatment Plant to make scheduled arrangements to set the blind at 419-933-4001, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Q: When was the last time the reservoir was stocked with fish?

A: The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife manages the fish population in the reservoir, typically walleye, and yellow perch are stocked annually, along with the occasional stocking of channel catfish, ODNR Division of Wildlife District Two Office Findlay Ohio (419)-424-5000.

Scott Pifher
Superintendent
Water & Wastewater Plants
City of Willard

