

A Message from our Superintendents

Seasonal Camper Update #1: COVID-19

March 25, 2020

During this time of uncertainty and rapidly changing conditions, communication is vital. We've created this update to keep you informed of the impacts that COVID-19 is having on the operation of Fanshawe, Pittcock and Wildwood Conservation Areas for the 2020 season.

When will the Parks open?

With the provincial directive to close all non-essential services for 14 days, it is clear that we will not be able to open the parks, including the campgrounds and reservoir access, on May 1 as planned. Staff are working to determine an opening date, but it will depend greatly on the virus activity and direction from municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Staff are monitoring the situation daily and reviewing the operations accordingly. We are committed to keeping you informed when an opening date is determined as well as other relevant news.

The Current Status

Our parks are still closed for the winter season, as usual. All UTRCA buildings, offices and facilities are closed to the public until April 8. These measures are in place to keep staff and visitors safe and healthy, and will be extended if necessary.

Although self isolation is absolutely necessary to avoid further spread, health officials recognize that exercise and fresh air are important to everyone's mental health. At this time, seasonal campers can come to the parks and walk in to their trailers, during daylight hours.

Please keep the following in mind while on UTRCA lands:

- If you are sick or feel unwell, stay home. Wait until you are better before visiting.
- If you have recently returned from outside of Canada, stay home for 14 days. Please do not visit our parks until your self quarantine period is over.
- Park in designated parking areas only.
- Always maintain social distance – at least 2 m/6 ft from other people – even when outdoors.
- Please stay away from the reservoirs and streams in our CAs, especially during high water periods.
- Keep your pets on leash at all times, and stoop and scoop to keep our parks clean and healthy.
- Fires are not permitted at any time when the parks are closed.
- Playgrounds are posted as closed and we ask that you respect that.
- UTRCA Regulations and Policies are applicable and must be adhered to.

Stay Informed about COVID-19

It's important to get your information from reputable sources and not rely on hearsay or rumour. Here are some good sources:

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Province of Ontario](#)
- Your local Health Unit is an excellent source for information on local impacts and actions.
- Call or visit [Telehealth Ontario](#) (1-866-797-0000) for specific health concerns about COVID-19.

www.fanshaweconservationarea.ca
www.pittcockconservationarea.ca
www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca