



Mecosta County Park Commission

22250 Northland Drive, Paris, MI 49338 (231) 832-3246

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RE: Hardy Pond Reservoir Conditions - Spring 2018

Brower Park Camping Guest,

The Mecosta County Park Commission recently received information from Consumers Energy that may affect your upcoming stay with us. The information released relates to the water levels of the Hardy Pond Reservoir this spring and the limited boating opportunities that may be present due to construction taking place on the Hardy Dam. This information was passed along to us as follows:

“Hardy Pond is drawn down each winter and is typically refilled by May 1. The pond must be kept at a lower level for the safety of crews performing the tipping wall replacement. After the project is completed, the pond will begin to be refilled. It is expected that the pond will be filled to normal level, barring project delays due to weather or other factors, by the second weekend in June.”

The Park Commission took an active approach when initially hearing that this might be a possibility. A permit has been submitted to the DEQ for review, which would allow for the extension of our boat launches in the deep-water channel by 12 ft. If approved, work could begin on this launch extension during the first week of May.

We do not anticipate that the boat launch at Brower Park or Davis Bridge park will be usable until an extension takes place. Currently, small to medium boats are able to launch at the DNR launch site under the I31 bridge. River currents in this area along with floating debris and low-water hazards such as stumps and rocks are things to consider if you decide to use the waterway during these low-water conditions. Extreme caution is recommended. Until boats are able to launch at Brower Park we will not be charging normal boating permit fee's. Please note the swimming area within the park will also be un-usable until the water levels return to normal.

The Park Commission will continue with our normal cancellation policy for all reservations, while shortening the required notice period from 14 to 7 days for nightly campers and adding the ability for those with reservations over Memorial Day weekend to cancel (if desired) in accordance with our standard non-holiday cancellation policy. We have attached a copy of our low-water cancellation/refund policy with this notice.

We hope that this inconvenience does not deter you from visiting Brower Park this spring, but understand if you feel the conditions are no longer adequate for your visit. Please follow our Brower Park page on Facebook for continuing updates and information as your reservation dates and cancellation deadlines near.

Please contact the parks administration office at 231-832-3246 or at admin@MecostaCountyParks.com with any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Abel – Parks Superintendent