

FREDERICK COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT OF SHAWNEELAND MANAGER'S REPORT – MAY 2024

Lake Cherokee:

The Cherokee Lake water level is currently at full pool. So far this year we have received a total of 15.24" of rain. This is a direct result of the lake levels we are experiencing.

The staff gauge at the lake has a series of numbers beginning with zero. If the water level is at the zero mark, this means the lake is at the full pool level.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation or DCR for short regulates the dam. Ideally DCR wants to keep the lake level to no more than full pool. This is the reason a spillway pipe is in place to allow any water over full pool to discharge. If we experience rising lake levels and have rain in the forecast, it is my obligation to activate the siphons to keep the water level safe and where DCR wants it to be. I only discharge enough water to keep it at this safe level. As I keep up with the weather forecast, I have to decide if and when to release water. My decisions are based on the information from the weather forecasters. As we know the forecast is not always accurate, so I do the best I can with the information provided. As the dam operator I will continue to make the best decisions to keep the lake at a safe level.

Lake Cherokee Beach:

The beach will open May 23rd barring any unforeseen issues. The staff will prepare the beach area the week before the opening. This will include fresh sand on the beach. The water will be tested 2 weeks prior to opening and tested on a weekly basis until the beach closes.

Fishing Derby:

The fishing derby will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 8am. In February I ordered 424 trout to be stocked for this annual event. Both ponds will receive 100 Rainbow Trout, 6 Golden Trout, and 2 Brooders. The remaining trout will be stocked in Cherokee Lake. The trout stocking will take place on Friday, May 10, 2024.

There will be no fishing in the 2 ponds on Tomahawk Trail after the trout are stocked until the time of the derby.

Common Ground Clearing:

The staff cleared 2 locations of common ground. One area behind the Tomahawk Mailhouse and one area of Tom Tom Trail behind the golf course. Both areas were cleared of unsightly Ailanthus trees. These areas were infested with lantern flies as well. It was an ongoing problem with limbs falling and having to be removed to mow in those areas. We can now simply keep these areas maintained by mowing. These areas look much better without the unsightly mess.

Pipe Replacement:

The staff has been replacing and upgrading rusted and deteriorated drainage culverts. This process began in March and will continue until we have this year's replacement list completed. Pipes are being replaced in 20 locations.

Grader Patching:

Grader patching will begin once the weather has warmed and suitable for patching. I estimate we will be placing between 700 to 800 tons of asphalt in various locations. This process will continue until all scheduled locations are patched.

Scrapped Mailboxes:

The old mailboxes from the Tomahawk Mailhouse were scrapped at Winchester Scrap. We received a check for \$235.20, the check was taken to the Treasurer's Office and deposited into the reserve fund account.

Maple Trail Playground:

The staff removed the old wooden swing set at the Maple Trail Playground. We rebuilt a new wooden set that is much stronger and will last for many years to come.