



2020 Shenipsit Lake Reservoir Recreation Program FAQ

Q: What is the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir recreation program and why is a permit required for the public to recreate at the lake?

A: Lake Shenipsit is a public drinking water supply reservoir that serves thousands of customers in the northern part of Connecticut. Any recreational activities on public drinking water supply sources require a permit from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The DPH permit places conditions on recreational activities to safeguard the purity of the drinking water supply. The DPH has approved a modified permit to allow for limited activities in light of COVID-19.

Q: Will there be any changes to the 2020 program in light of COVID-19?

A: Yes. While the recreation program opened for its 26th year on Saturday, April 11th, temporary modifications to the 2020 program have been made to protect employees and the community in view of the risks of COVID-19. Fishing from boats and the storage of boats at the boat storage is being temporarily suspended. Fishing will only be allowed from designated shoreline fishing areas, which can be found at the kiosk at the boat storage area or in the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir Recreation Program overview at <https://www.ctwater.com/community/serving-communities>. The hiking trails will remain open. Participants are asked to follow the permit rules and current social distancing guidelines.

Q: Are participants required to have a fishing permit?

A: All participants are required to have all required licenses, permits, and any prerequisite training. All individuals, 16 years and older must possess a current valid CT fishing license. Individuals under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an adult at least sixteen years of age with a valid fishing license.

Q: What other rules are participants expected to follow?

A: All program participants are required to follow the rules set forth in the modified permit:

- Fish from designated shoreline areas only.
- Practice social distancing maintaining at least 6 feet separation between participants and limit congregating in common areas.
- Obey all orders and directions of the Connecticut Water Company staff and security.

- Remain only in the permitted areas/marked trails within any legal season of the activity and park only in designated areas.
- All bodily wastes must be disposed of off the watershed.
- Violation of any of the rules may result in revocation of permit and denial of future permits. Violation of federal, state, or local laws may result in arrest and prosecution.
- The following are strictly prohibited:
 - i. Boats/vessels of any type (**temporary COVID-19 restriction, subject to periodic review*)
 - ii. Swimming in the reservoirs or any tributaries
 - iii. Wading in the reservoirs or any tributaries
 - iv. Allowing vehicles or trailers to enter reservoirs or tributaries
 - v. Littering
 - vi. Smoking
 - vii. Alcoholic Beverages
 - viii. Fishing in restricted area (including buoyed area around CTWS aerators and intake channel to spillway and treatment plant).
 - ix. Hunting or trapping
 - x. Pets not leashed on dry land
 - xi. Motors (motor bikes, snowmobiles, motorized vehicles or vessels of any type)
 - xii. Fires
 - xiii. Camping
 - xiv. Removal of vegetation, animals, or minerals
 - xv. Vendors
 - xvi. Carrying or discharge of firearms or dangerous weapons
 - xvii. Bicycles
 - xviii. Horses
 - xix. Activities of any type, including fishing, on the ice of a frozen reservoir or tributaries
 - xx. Disposal or discharge of wastes or other substances into any reservoir or tributary
 - xxi. Cleaning of fish within 250 feet of any waterbody

Q: Will the activities be monitored this year?

A: To be consistent with Governor Lamont’s executive order to ‘Stay Safe, Stay Home’ and the recommendations of federal and state health officials to avoid non-essential work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community, there will be no full time lake monitors until further notice. Connecticut Water will provide a periodic presence on a daily basis to observe activities and conditions at the reservoir and report any issues that could adversely impact the water supply and we will rely on participants to follow the permit conditions and the guidance on social distance and gathering size.

We are asking for everyone’s cooperation to follow all the rules of the permit, refrain from boating, properly dispose of any trash and honor the governor’s executive orders regarding social distancing and size of gathering, to help ensure that we can have a successful program, as modified, this season.

Q: Are lakeshore property owners able to use their boats?

A: The DPH permit was approved with the terms and conditions agreed to when the program was initially developed years ago to address all permitted activities on the reservoir. Any fishing from boats is prohibited this season until further notice. It is essential that during this time, the community work together to protect each other and the integrity of Shenipsit Lake reservoir.

Q: Does the Connecticut Water Company support the continuation of the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir recreation program?

A: Yes. Connecticut Water has seen the benefits of the recreation program for the community and the company for over 25 years and know it has been valued by residents and helped maintain the conditions around the reservoir. We want to continue to build on the long standing successful program and work with the local communities so residents can continue to enjoy this precious natural resource for recreation while protecting water quality for the communities we serve.

Q: Are these 2020 program changes permanent? When will boats be allowed back on the lake?

A: While we felt it was necessary to modify the program this year based on the current circumstances, we assure you that we want to continue to build on the long standing successful program so residents can continue to enjoy this precious natural resource for recreation while protecting water quality for the communities we serve. We fully expect to resume the original program activities, including boating, for the 2021 season if not sooner.

The company will meet with local leaders on a monthly basis starting May 1st to review the activities, consider guidance on COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and state and local officials, and determine if the boating program should be reinstated this season. The prohibition on fishing from boats will only be removed if a permit modification is requested by the company and approved by DPH.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: The Shenipsit Lake Reservoir recreation program is fully funded by Connecticut Water. For more information about the program, including the location of designated shoreline fishing areas and the status of the boating portion of the fishing program, please visit <https://www.ctwater.com/community/serving-communities>.