



HIGHER LAKE LEVELS PROMPT A CHANGE IN PARK OPERATION AT J.B. THOMAS

BIG SPRING, Texas – May 15, 2015 – Recent rains have caused Lake J.B. Thomas to rise 11 feet over the past week. The lake is now 73.4 percent full or 8.3 feet below its full elevation. The last time Thomas was at this elevation was January 1964.

While we are fortunate to have this additional water as a source of supply for west Texas, the rise in lake level has presented another challenge for the District; less park land available for overnight camping and day use at the Lake.

CRMWD is modifying its park operations at Lake Thomas to accommodate as many people in the parks as possible in a comfortable and safe manner.

The District has 5 public areas for recreational use at Lake Thomas: White Island, Rocky Point, Southside Park, Sandy Beach Park and Bull Creek Park. At each public area the following facilities are now available:

White Island (Small Area)

- Day Use Only (no overnight camping)
- No Boat Ramp
- Covered Pavilion Available – No Reservations First Come First Served
- Public Restrooms
- No Potable Water

Rocky Point

- Because of High Water Levels the Park is Closed to Vehicle Traffic. It is Accessible by Walking
- No Facilities are Available

Southside Park

- 25 Picnic Tables / Overnight Camping Locations – No Reservations First Come First Served
- Overnight Camping Allowed at Picnic Tables Only
- Boat Ramp
- Boat/Trailer Parking
- Public Restrooms
- No Potable Water
- Dump Station
- Public Pavilion - Reservations Required Please Call 325-574-6853

Sandy Beach

- 12 Picnic Table / Overnight Camping Locations – No Reservations First Come First Served
- Overnight Camping Allowed at Picnic Tables Only
- No Boat Ramp
- Public Restrooms
- No Potable Water

Bull Creek Park (Very Small Park)

- 9 Picnic Table / Overnight Camping Locations – No Reservations First Come First Served
- Overnight Camping Allowed at Picnic Tables Only
- Boat Ramp
- Boat/Trailer Parking
- Public Restrooms
- No Potable Water

The Colorado River Municipal Water District asks that the public follow all signs for access and parking in the parks and camp at the designate locations (picnic tables) only.

Follow all TPWD safe boating laws and regulations and take care when launching boats and engaging in lake activity. There will be debris on and under the water for some time.

Access to all CRMWD parks requires a vehicle pass. The cost is a nominal \$5 per vehicle/per day or \$60 annually/per vehicle. Senior Citizens (age 65 and older) can receive an annual pass for \$10/per vehicle. You can purchase the daily passes at the lakes or the annual passes at the District's Administrative office located at 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas, 79720, 432-267-6341.

CRMWD will continue to monitor recreational activities at Lake Thomas and future changes could be made to each public area as the water level fluctuates or conditions change.

For more information regarding recreational activities at District facilities, please see the Rules and Regulations located on our website www.crmwd.org or contact 432-267-6341.