



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Pittsburgh District

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Release No. 04-268

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## **IMPACTS OF HIGH WATER ON RECREATION FOR WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2004**

PITTSBURGH – Heavy rainfall from the remnants of Hurricane Ivan has resulted in the closure or partial closure of some recreation facilities at US Army Corps of Engineers projects in the Pittsburgh District. The impacts are outlined below for those facilities that are affected. Recreation areas scheduled to be opened at this time of year will reopen as the pool levels recede and debris cleanup is accomplished. The status is subject to change based on any additional rain that is received and it is recommended that members of the public call the recorded 24-hour information line or the project office for updates.

Conemaugh River Lake, Pa. – The Bow Ridge boat launching ramp intended for use by those with disabilities is currently out of service, but it is anticipated that it will be available for use by sometime this weekend. Canoeists and others launching non-powered boats from the shoreline should use extreme caution because the receding lake level has left the banks covered with mud and debris. *(24-hour recorded message, 724-639-3785)*

Crooked Creek Lake, Pa. – Access to the organized group campground, public boat launch and the Tunnelville recreation area is closed due to high water. The playground, Liberty Pavilion, horseshoe court and rest room at the Hancock Bend area are closed due to high water and related problems. The Outflow Road has reopened and other day use facilities are unaffected by the high water. Due to the high pool elevation, the American Power Boat Association boat races will not be held the weekend of 24-26 September and questions should be directed to the race director. Unrelated to high water, the family camping area is closed for the season. *(24-hour recorded message, 724-763-2764)*

Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir, Pa. and N.Y. – The US Forest Service reports that its boat launching ramps on the Allegheny Reservoir are open, but that the courtesy dock shore approaches are either under water or have been disconnected. The Friends Boat Launch in Allegany State Park is open. The Kinzua-Wolf Run and Onoville marinas are both open. The Corps' car-top boat launch in the Big Bend Outflow Area will remain closed and unusable until the discharge from the dam approaches 10,000 cfs; the discharge is currently at approximately 18,000 cfs. *(24-hour recorded message, 814-726-0164)*

Loyalhanna Lake, Pa. – The campground and boat launch at the Bush Recreation Area are currently closed, but the reservoir level is dropping and it is anticipated that they will reopen at some point over the weekend. Day use areas remain open. Visitors should exercise caution when walking or boating due to the presence of mud and debris. *(24-hour recorded message, 724-639-3785)*

Mahoning Creek Lake, Pa. – The Milton Loop and Sportsmen's boat launching ramps are both out of service due to high water. The Milton Loop Campground is open but will close for the season on September 26. Mahoning day use areas remain open. *(24-hour recorded message, 814-257-8017)*

Shenango River Lake, Pa. and Oh. – Because the lake level is significantly above normal summer pool level, the Shenango Recreation Area boat launch is the only boat launching ramp currently available. The Mahaney day use area remains open; however, the Shenango recreation area campground will not reopen this season. *(24-hour recorded message, 724-962-4384)*

Tionesta Lake, Pa. – The Nebraska and Tionesta boat launches are currently out of service, but it is anticipated that the Tionesta launch, and perhaps the Nebraska, may be available for use by the weekend. Unrelated to high water, the last day that fees will be charged for use of the Tionesta Lake launch is September 26. The ramp will be available without charge after that date for as long as weather and water conditions permit, until fees are once again charged beginning April 16, 2005. The last night that fees will be charged at the Kellettsville and the Outflow Recreation Area campgrounds is September 25; these campgrounds remain available for use with reduced facilities and services in the off-season. The campground at the Tionesta Recreation Area closed for the season on September 7 for construction. *(Project Office, 814-755-3512; 24-hour recorded message not available)*

Woodcock Creek Lake, Pa. - The boat launching ramp at Col. Crawford Park is currently closed, but it is anticipated that it will be available for use again at some point over the weekend. *(Project Office, 814-763-4422; 24-hour recorded message not available)*

Youghiogheny River Lake, Pa. and Md. - The Outflow campground is temporarily closed; the Outflow day use area remains open, but all restrooms are closed due to the unavailability of potable water. Every effort is being made to reopen this campground in time for the annual PumpkinFest in Confluence. *(24-hour recorded message, 814-395-3166)*

Recreation facilities at the remaining Pittsburgh District reservoirs – Berlin Lake, East Branch Clarion River Lake, Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir, Mosquito Creek Lake, Stonewall Jackson Lake, Tygart Lake, and Union City Dam – are not currently affected by high pool levels. However, we remind the visiting public that heavy rains can lead to high lake levels and recreation facility closures at any time. Therefore, visitors are encourage to call the 24-hour recorded messages or the project offices for the most up-to-date information on closures due to changing conditions.

Visitors are also reminded that, although there are many recreational opportunities still available through the fall, there are also many areas that are closed as the season progresses. Most of these are scheduled closures due to the time of year, but other closures are related to receding pool levels as certain reservoirs are drawn down to levels that allow them to accept runoff from snow melt and spring precipitation events. Information on scheduled closures can be found on the District website ([www.lrp.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil)) in a June 3, 2004 press release titled "2004 Recreation Fee Schedule" under the "News and Information" tab.