



WESTMINSTER

March 19, 2019

Dear Standley Lake Boater:

It is with sincere regret that the City of Westminster announces the immediate and indefinite closure of Standley Lake to trailered boats. We have concluded that the threat of water quality contamination from zebra and quagga mussels is simply too great.

If you have already purchased a permit for the 2019 boating season, you will receive a full refund by March 31, 2019. The credit card that was utilized to purchase the permit will be the credit card that is refunded. An email notification confirming the refund will be sent to the email address you provided at the time of purchase.

As you may be aware, Standley Lake is the drinking water supply for nearly 300,000 people in Westminster, Northglenn and Thornton. The potential for a mussel infestation and the damage it can cause is of increasing concern.

We've constantly been alert to preventing zebra and quagga mussels in Standley Lake. That led to our boat decontamination procedures of power spraying every surface of boats and trailers and imposing a quarantine period. However, new reports indicate that spraying cannot fully prevent the possible introduction through ballast tanks or the inside of trailer frames. In reviewing 2018 boat launch data, we've also discovered multiple instances of boaters circumventing the quarantine process. Boat owners launched the boat on other lakes, in some cases multiple times, and then launched on Standley Lake only days later.

Westminster has shared its decision with the cities of Thornton and Northglenn, along with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Public Works Department officials with those cities have indicated support for the decision. The Westminster City Council has been advised of this policy decision by city staff.

The Standley Lake boating community has largely been a terrific partner in helping protect these waters. Until we can determine if there's a way to ensure these types of boats won't pose a substantial risk at the lake, we need to put these activities on hold indefinitely. We will be advising boating retailers and marine associations of this decision as well.

I would like to invite you to attend a community meeting on Tuesday, April 2, from 6-7:30 p.m. at in the Community Room at City Park Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Blvd. I encourage you to attend if you have further questions or want to learn more about this decision. You can also find more information at www.cityofwestminster.us/boating.

We know this may affect your summer recreation plans, and we apologize for the inconvenience it creates.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Tripp
City Manager
City of Westminster

cc:

Jason Genck
Director, Parks, Recreation and Libraries
City of Westminster

Max Kirschbaum
Director, Public Works and Utilities
City of Westminster