



Update on the 2026 Fall Cascade Township Dam Drawdown

Cascade Township is providing an update regarding the 2026 fall drawdown of the Cascade Township Dam, which is currently scheduled to begin on September 28, 2026.

The Cascade Thornapple River Association (CTRA) Board recently recommended that the Township suspend the fall 2026 drawdown. The recommendation was based on concerns regarding the timing, duration, and depth of seasonal drawdowns and their impact on recreational use of the impoundment, particularly boating.

These concerns are not new and have been raised with the Township over the years. The timing, duration, and depth of the seasonal drawdowns are established through requirements from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and are not within the Township's control.

In response to the CTRA's recommendation, the Township met with the dam operators and EGLE representatives to discuss a potential one-time suspension of the fall 2026 drawdown. An important part of the discussion was determining whether foregoing the 2026 fall drawdown would affect future drawdowns or the Township's ongoing dam operations.

EGLE confirmed that a one-time suspension of the fall 2026 drawdown would not affect future drawdowns. The Township would be able to resume the regularly scheduled seasonal drawdown process in spring 2027.

Based on this information, Cascade Township has formally requested that the fall 2026 drawdown be suspended for this year only. The request is not intended to represent a permanent change to dam operations or eliminate future seasonal drawdowns. The current expectation is that regularly scheduled drawdowns will resume in spring 2027.

The one-time suspension would allow the impoundment to remain at its normal level through the fall recreational season while also providing an opportunity for the Township, EGLE, the dam operators, and other stakeholders to continue evaluating the timing, duration, and depth of future drawdowns.

The Township will continue to communicate with EGLE, the dam operators, the CTRA, and affected residents as this request moves forward. Updates regarding the 2026 fall drawdown and future drawdown schedules will be posted on the Cascade Township Dam webpage.

At this time, residents should be aware that the Township has requested a one-time suspension of the fall 2026 drawdown and that EGLE has indicated the suspension would not impact future seasonal drawdowns.