

# Lake Junaluska 2021



# Drawdown

## Informational Sheet

Every few years, Lake Junaluska must draw down the water to remove sediment deposits from the lake. Here are some frequently asked questions about the lake drawdown.

**Q:** What is a drawdown?

**A:** A process where the waters of Lake Junaluska are gradually lowered in order to remove the build-up of sediment deposit. The drawdown offers a number of benefits to the life and health of the lake, including the removal of silt, cleaning of litter and time to make necessary repairs to the dam and sewer system. Lake Junaluska conducts the drawdown per state and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements.

**Q:** Why is there silt in the lake?

**A:** Silt comes from runoff into the Richland Creek and Factory Branch stream watersheds, which feed into Lake Junaluska. When the waters enter Lake Junaluska, the silt slows and settles on the bottom of the lake, building up over time. It must periodically be removed to ensure optimal health for the lake.

**Q:** When will the drawdown happen?

**A:** The drawdown began on Wednesday, December 30, 2020. From beginning to end, activities associated with the lake drawdown typically take seven to eight weeks. This time frame can be affected by rain and snow, or lack thereof. The process is scheduled to be completed by Easter.

**Q:** What will happen to the lake's wildlife during the drawdown?

**A:** The waters of Richland Creek will continue to flow through Lake Junaluska during the drawdown. While the animals will be concentrated into shallower waters, they will suffer no ill effects from the drawdown.

**Q:** Can I still walk around the lake?

**A:** Yes, the Lake Junaluska walking path remains open, though pedestrians are cautioned to watch for heavy equipment at the lake entry points set up for this project along U.S. 19.

**Q:** Can I still boat?

**A:** No, boating is not allowed until the lake is restored to its full pool.

**Q:** What else will happen during the lake drawdown?

**A:** A community Lake Clean-up Day is being planned to assist in the litter removal process. We will send out a date for the clean-up event once details are confirmed.