

Performing Maintenance During Lake Marble Falls Drawdown

Property owners along Lake Marble Falls may repair docks and retaining walls, dredge, remove debris and perform certain other maintenance activities during a lake drawdown in October to December 2022.

Boat dock maintenance

Boat dock repairs performed during the lake drawdown do not require an LCRA permit, but must comply with the [Safety Standards for Residential Docks on the Highland Lakes](https://www.lcra.org/download/dock-safety-standards-pdf/?wpdmdl=19924), available online at <https://www.lcra.org/download/dock-safety-standards-pdf/?wpdmdl=19924>.

Residential docks exceeding 1,500 square feet may be required to obtain a residential marina permit under the [Highland Lakes Marina Ordinance](#). For more information on permitting requirements, contact LCRA Water Surface Management at 800-776-5272, ext. 2309.

Dredging, removal of debris and other maintenance activities

Property owners are allowed to perform several activities, including dredging, removing debris and conducting maintenance on existing retaining walls, boat slips and boat launches, without an individual permit while the lake is lowered. The work is allowed on Lake Marble Falls from Oct. 1 through Dec. 29, 2022, under LCRA's lakewide permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Anyone planning to perform maintenance under LCRA's permit must register with LCRA before the work begins.

Activities allowed under the lakewide permit

- Dredging up to 2,000 cubic yards of material to maintain access and navigability of the waterway.
 - Dredged material must be removed from the lakebed.
 - Dredged material must be disposed of above 737 feet msl – the top of the target operating range for Lake Marble Falls. The material also must be protected with temporary erosion controls until it can be structurally contained or permanently stabilized with vegetation, so it does not re-enter the lake.
 - Dredged areas must be gradually sloped and smoothed to blend into the existing channel bottom contour and to prevent any irregular surfaces or cuts that might collapse or erode.

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- Repairing existing structures such as retaining walls, boat slips or boat launches.
- Clearing debris from the lakeshore.
 - Material must be disposed of properly.

Activities not allowed under the lakewide permit

- Burning in the lakebed, which is prohibited by Section 26.121 of the Texas Water Code.
- Shoreline work in excess of 500 feet or dredging more than 2,000 cubic yards.
- Reclamation of land lost to erosion or flood damage.
- Disposing of dredged material on sandbars or islands in the lakebed or along the shoreline.
- New construction. All new construction of retaining walls, boat ramps and channels must comply with LCRA's Highland Lakes Dredge and Fill Ordinance.

Work performed before the drawdown or after the lake is refilled is not covered by the lakewide permit. Property owners working on a retaining wall or dredging before or after the drawdown must meet requirements of LCRA's Highland Lakes Dredge and Fill Ordinance.

Equipment should not be left unattended in the lakebed during the lake lowering and should be stored above 737 feet msl when not in use. Lake level management, water supply and hydroelectric operations will continue during the drawdown. When water is released from Wirtz Dam, water levels will be higher and fluctuate more at the upper end of Lake Marble Falls than levels measured at Starcke Dam. Unforeseen circumstances, such as floods or power emergencies, could prompt LCRA to change or cancel the scheduled drawdown to pass water through the Highland Lakes.

For more information, contact LCRA Water Quality Protection at 512-578-2324.