

City of Dover

July 3, 2025

Dear Lakeside Resident and/or Property Owner:

This letter is to inform you that the City of Dover plans to open the valve on the Silver Lake Dam beginning **Monday, October 6, 2025, through Friday, October 17, 2025**. As a result of the valve opening, the water level of Silver Lake may be visibly lower. The City of Dover periodically opens the valve in an effort to allow surrounding property owners the opportunity to remove litter from the lake bank and make any approved necessary repairs along the shoreline.

If you do want to perform the necessary repairs and maintenance on docks or structures that are normally at or near the waterline, you may need a permit from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC) Wetlands and Waterways Section please call 302-739-9943 or visit:

<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/wetlands/> for review of the permitting requirements. Permit application approval time varies depending on the type of permit and it is recommended to initiate this process as soon as possible in order to receive the permit while lake levels are down. Structural improvements to docks and other structures may also require City of Dover building permits. For information on work that requires a building permit, please contact the Licensing and Permitting Division of the City of Dover at 302-736-7010.

Please bear in mind that the water level in the lake is weather dependant. Rainfall amounts will be a factor in how low the water level reaches and the amount of time the valve will be left open. If a concern about the fish and wildlife population arises, then this may also affect the amount of time the valve is left open. Furthermore, the City of Dover is not liable for any contracts, costs, or repair work that you may incur as part of this endeavor.

Please review the enclosed insert that will answer some of your questions about this effort. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Carolyn Courtney at 302-736-7050 or by email at ccourtney@dover.de.us.

Cordially,



Roger Ridgeway,
Director Parks & Recreation
City of Dover

Cc: Silver Lake Commission
Parks & Recreation Community Enhancement Committee
Dave Hugg, City Manager
Sharon Duca, Asst. City Manager
Thomas A Johnson, Chief of Police
Dawn Melson-Willaims, Principal Planner
Mark Nowak, Public Works Director
Andrew Howard, Watershed Stewardship Div., DNREC

RR/cdc

enclosure

P.O. Box 475, Dover DE 19903-0475
Communitu Excellence Through Quality Service

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW!

Silver Lake adds to Dover's historical and natural charm. As property owners near this local treasure, knowing and understanding the rules that govern the lake will ensure everyone's safety and the lake's continued protection!

WHAT CAN I DO TO MY PROPERTY/DOCK WHILE THE DAM VALVE IS OPEN?

➤ **IF YOU WANT TO REPAIR OR CHANGE YOUR DOCK AND/OR SHORELINE STABILIZATION:**

First, if you want to make any repairs or changes to any docks, shoreline stabilization structures, or any other structures that are usually below or near the regular water level line, then you will need to obtain a permit from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Wetlands and Waterways Section **before** any work is initiated. To contact DNREC's Wetlands and Waterways Section please call 302-739-9943 or visit:

<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/wetlands/>

➤ **IF YOU WANT TO REMOVE DEAD OR FALLEN TREES:**

You will also want to speak with someone from DNREC's Wetlands and Waterways Section if you would like to remove any fallen trees or tree limbs that are on or near the shoreline. To contact DNREC's Wetlands and Waterways Section please call 302-739-9943 or visit

<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/wetlands/>

➤ **IF YOU WANT TO REMOVE WEEDS OR OTHER GRASSES:**

Make sure what you are removing is actually a weed!! Some native plants and grasses may look "weedy" but are actually beneficial to the lake and local wildlife. Having native grasses and plants on your property will actually help you keep the REAL weeds off your property.

➤ **IF YOU WANT TO REMOVE LITTER AND TRASH:**

Please feel free to remove any litter, trash, garbage, or any other refuse that has no business being in a lake! Examples are: glass bottles, anything made of plastic (such as bags and bottles), paper litter, and old tires. Just make sure to properly dispose or recycle the refuse.



WHY DO I NEED A PERMIT TO REPAIR OR REMOVE SOMETHING THAT IS ON MY PROPERTY?

The State of Delaware protects certain areas that are critical natural resources and habitats, such as rivers, lakes, and wetlands; Silver Lake is one of those protected places. The Lake is a place where many wildlife species (such as birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians) can nest and feed. Therefore, any changes in Silver Lake can cause disturbances to wildlife habitats and water quality. For example, that old rotting tree that fell over 5 years ago may be home to fish and provide your property with erosion protection!

The DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Section authorizes activities in Delaware's tidal wetlands, bays, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and other waterways. Types of activities that could require permits include constructing, repairing, or changing docks and/or placing objects in or near the water to stabilize the shoreline. Please contact the Wetlands and Waterways Section before you perform any modifications to your property.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact Andy Howard, Division of Watershed Stewardship at 302-739-9939 or by email at Andrew.Howard@delaware.gov.

