

# Canyon Lake Goes From Record Low to Completely Full in 14 Months, Boat Ramps Reopen for Summer

*Texas Hill Country reservoir returns to conservation pool for the first time since 2021, with 17 of 20 public boat ramps now open*

CANYON LAKE, TX, UNITED STATES, August 12, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- After reaching the lowest water level in its recorded history just over a year ago, [Canyon Lake](#) has made an extraordinary comeback. The Texas Hill Country reservoir fell to a record low of 876.96 feet, 45.1 percent full, in May 2025. It had recovered to roughly 61



percent full by mid-July 2026 when a historic flood added more than 19 feet in roughly four days and refilled it completely. As of 11 a.m. on August 10, 2026, the lake sits at 910.08 feet, slightly above its conservation pool elevation of 909.00 feet, with 17 of its 20 public boat ramps open.

It is the first time the reservoir has been at conservation pool since November 28, 2021, ending a stretch of four years, seven months, and 23 days below full. Brett Mazey, Canyon Lake Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, described it as the first time in four and a half years that the lake had reached conservation pool.

## Historic Rainfall Reversed a Historic Drought

The recovery followed 15 to 20 inches of rainfall across the upper Guadalupe River watershed near Kerrville between July 13 and July 18, 2026, as estimated by the National Weather Service Austin/San Antonio office. At the USGS gauge on the Guadalupe River at Comfort, flows peaked at roughly 200,000 cubic feet per second on the morning of July 16, compared with about 800 cubic feet per second before the storm.

Canyon Lake climbed 19.83 feet between July 14 and July 18 and reached 909.00 feet on the morning of July 21. On July 17 alone the lake rose 10.16 feet, the fourth largest single-day rise in the daily record that begins in 1988 and the largest ever recorded while the lake was below full.

The four-day climb is likewise the largest rise ever measured while Canyon Lake was below full pool, well beyond the previous mark of 11.45 feet set during the July 2025 flood. Every larger flood in the lake's record began with a reservoir that was already full, including the July 2002 flood of record, which pushed Canyon Lake roughly 40 feet to 950.32 feet and over its emergency spillway.

#### Recreation Returns Across the Lake

As of August 10, 17 of Canyon Lake's 20 public boat ramps are open, 10 of them free. Comal County has eight of its nine ramps open at no charge, and the Corps of Engineers operates two additional free ramps, at Little Jacob's Creek and Potter's Creek West, that are frequently overlooked. Paid access is available at Comal Park, Cranes Mill Park, and Canyon Park through the Water Oriented Recreation District, at Jacobs Creek Park through Joint Base San Antonio, and at Canyon Lake Marina.

Three public ramps remain closed: Comal County's Ramp 22 at Canyon Lake Shores, held up by debris accumulation; the Corps ramp at Potter's Creek East, which serves registered campers; and Cranes Mill Marina, which is clearing debris and relocating the marina before reopening its ramp. None of the remaining closures are related to water level. At the current elevation, every ramp on the lake clears its low-water threshold.

One change is permanent. Joint Base San Antonio has confirmed that Ramp 16 at Hancock Cove is permanently closed with no plans to reopen, leaving Canyon Lake with 22 ramps in service or capable of service rather than 23.

The floodwater has also cleared. The muddy brown that came down the river arms during the rise is gone, and Canyon Lake has returned to the clear blue and green water it is known for.

Separately, water quality testing conducted at multiple locations on the lake has found conditions within acceptable standards for contact recreation. Swimming is at the individual's discretion and is prohibited in boat ramp areas.

On August 5, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority announced that, in coordination with the Corps of Engineers, Canyon Dam releases would move to a constant 300 cubic feet per second beginning August 6, gradually easing the lake back toward its normal conservation pool while balancing downstream conditions.

#### A Turning Point for the Region

Canyon Lake's rebound restores a central recreational and economic asset for the Texas Hill Country after a drought cycle that affected tourism, lake recreation, and public perception of the area.

"We recorded a video standing at Canyon Lake when it was at its all-time record low, and we said on camera that the lake would fill again, and that it could happen in a single event rather than

over several wet seasons. That was not optimism. That was the lake's own history. Fourteen months later it filled completely in four days. The lesson for anyone who follows this lake, whether they boat here or own here, is not to judge Canyon Lake by what it happens to be doing in any given month."

Hunter Croan, Owner, [The Lakefront Group](#)

The change has been felt by people who work on the lake every day.

"I went about six weeks without a single showing on Canyon Lake before the lake came up. Since it filled, I am out showing Canyon Lake property regularly again. For those buyers the water level was the whole story, and once it changed, they came back."

Hagan Cohle, Buyer Specialist, The Lakefront Group

Because Canyon Lake's ramps are operated by five separate authorities, Comal County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the Water Oriented Recreation District, Joint Base San Antonio, two private marinas, and the Lake Canyon Yacht Club, no single agency publishes a combined status. The Lakefront Group maintains an online [Canyon Lake Boat Ramp Guide](#) that compiles current status, operating authority, cost, and water level thresholds for every ramp into a single regularly updated resource. Because ramp operators can open or close a ramp at any time for debris, staffing, or safety, boaters are encouraged to verify conditions before traveling.

#### About The Lakefront Group

The Lakefront Group is a Central Texas waterfront real estate team founded by Hunter Croan, specializing in lakefront and riverfront properties across Canyon Lake, Lake Travis, Lake LBJ, the Highland Lakes, and surrounding river communities. The team combines local market expertise with in-depth knowledge of lake conditions and waterfront property values to help buyers and sellers make informed real estate decisions.

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